

THE GATEWAY

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Landlines on campus may be cut

DAN WATSON
News Writer

With the University of Alberta looking to cut funding in a difficult year, some departments are considering eliminating landline phones from faculty offices to reduce their operating costs.

Due to the \$59 million U of A budget deficit, departments are being asked to cut five per cent from their individual budgets. As phones are considered a departmental expense, many departments see this as one way to cut operating costs, rather than laying off more teaching staff. However, the reaction from faculty members has been mixed.

English Professor Stephen Slemon expects to have his landline cut after the English and Film Studies (EFS) department finalizes its proposed budget. He said that under the circumstances the department is facing, the decision makes sense, but there will be consequences.

"I think [the phone lines are] just one example of the way those kind of cross-the-board cuts are having a serious effect on students – they're diminishing student experience," he said. "I think that a lot of students are going to find that it's just more difficult to reach their professors."

In addition, Slemon frequently uses his phone to teleconference, and says he cannot do his job without it. He expects that he'll now have to buy his own phone to conduct university business, and he won't get any help to pay for it.

"Do reputable businesses ask people to pay for the things they need to do their jobs out of pocket? I don't think they do," he said.

Melissa Jacques, a sessional instructor in the department of EFS, says that she can live without her phone.

"Where tenured faculty are losing their phones, contract academic staff have lost their jobs," Jacques explained via email.

"While contract staff are admittedly the most expendable members of any department, they also contribute to the culture of these departments through their teaching and their active participation on committees," she added.

Due to granting differences between faculties, some professors will have an easier time keeping their phone lines if they get cut from their departmental budgets.

Professors in departments from faculties like Science and Engineering have much greater access to funds they can apply to communications expenses.

PLEASE SEE PHONES ♦ PAGE 4



DAN MCKECHNIE

BUCKING BRONCOS A saddle bronc rider at the Black Gold Rodeo holds on for dear life on May 1. Rodeo has a huge cultural impact in Alberta. See feature, page 8.

University notification system dealing with delays

HUB and Rutherford evacuation in April provides valuable chance to revise emergency messaging

ALIX KEMP
News Staff

The University of Alberta's emergency response system saw its first real test on April 13, but some students say they didn't receive the notifications in a timely manner.

Text messages and e-mails were sent to students advising them to evacuate HUB Mall and Rutherford Library after a suspected chemical release in the area.

A student was found dead in his HUB apartment, and Edmonton Fire Rescue later confirmed that there was a chemical in the residence of the deceased.

Some students have reported that they either did not receive a notification from the university, or that they received the message several hours after the incident took place.

Phillip Stack, associate vice-president of Risk Management Services at the U of A, stressed that the electronic notification system is only part of the university's plan for emergency notification.

"Our effort was to try and get a message through multiple means."

"The first one was the activation of the fire alarm, including the intercom system that we used, as well

as our peace officers and others going door to door [...] to get people out of HUB Mall," he said.

Stack explained that the possible delays in receiving messages from the notification system were due to issues with cellphone service carriers, which couldn't handle the huge volume of messages being sent out.

Everbridge, the company that handles the U of A's electronic notification system, sent the notice immediately upon receiving it. Following that, message delivery was entirely in the hands of cellular service providers.

"It depends on the particular carrier in terms of how quickly [the emergency notification] gets to the end user," he said.

More than 17,000 students are currently signed up for the emergency notification system.

Stack stated that in previous tests, 40 per cent of students indicated that they received a notification within a 30 minute window of it being sent out.

Stack stressed the importance of using other means to spread information if there's an emergency on campus.

PLEASE SEE EMERGENCY ♦ PAGE 2



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAN MCKECHNIE

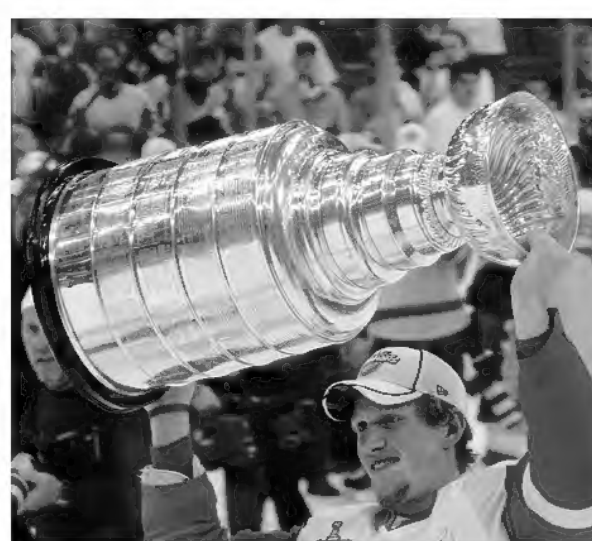
INBOX EMPTY Some students didn't receive the emergency message in April.



Travelling the globe

Comedian Danny Bhoy discusses his experiences touring the world and making people laugh.

A&E, PAGE 10



Journey to the Cup

The Gateway's expert staff weigh in with their predictions on who will claim Lord Stanley's trophy.

SPORTS, PAGE 15

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Students' Union Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 2J7Telephone 780.492.5168
Fax 780.492.6665
Ad Inquiries 780.492.6700
Email gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca

editorialstaff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Jonn Kmech
eic@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.5168**MANAGING EDITOR** Justin Bell
managing@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6654**SENIOR NEWS EDITOR** Alexandria Eldridge
news@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7308**DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR** Simon Yackulic
deputynews@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6664**OPINION EDITOR** Cody Civiero
opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6661**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR** Evan Mudryk
entertainment@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7052**SPORTS EDITOR** Matt Hirji
sports@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6652**PHOTO EDITOR** Dan McKechnie
photo@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6648**DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR** Lance Mudryk
production@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6663**ONLINE EDITOR** Jordan Ching
online@gateway.ualberta.ca | 248.1509

businessstaff

BUSINESS MANAGER Ashleigh Brown
biz@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6669**AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE** Patrick Cziolek
sales@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6700**AD/GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Mike Kendrick
design@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6647

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colophon

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contributors

Alix Kemp, Dan Watson, Evan Daum, Aaron Yeo, Scott Fenwick, Ross Vincent, Bruce Cinnamon, Mustafa Farooq, Nick Frost, Nathan Liewicki, Ross Lockwood, Bryan Saunders, Dustin Blumhagen, Joel Rackel, Lauren Alston

“ Rough start, eh?

COUNCIL FORUM

Written by Alexandria Eldridge

*Students' Council meets every second Tuesday at the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6 p.m. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11, where free food will be provided for all attendees.**Recently, Council allowed participants to build their own sandwiches, a meal complete with fruit, veggies, and cookies. In a word: nutritious. So if you're at all interested in student politics, swing by, fill your belly, and watch the new kids on the block learn the ropes.*

GETTING THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD

To begin the first official meeting of the new 2010/2011 Students' Council, former President Zach Fentiman led an installation ceremony. Councillors and executives placed their right hands above their hearts and repeated the installation pledge. Following this, all of the executives delivered their inaugural addresses, where they welcomed councillors and expressed their wishes for a successful year.

HOUSEKEEPING

At the beginning of the term, council approves standing orders for the year, which are the rules that govern council. After several amendments, the standing orders were approved. Council also appointed several councillors to the Gateway Student Journalism Society,

APIRG, and Student Legal Services boards of directors. Five members were also appointed to the Elections Review Committee.

SO MANY QUESTIONS, SO LITTLE TIME

Vice-President (Operations & Finance) Zach Fentiman fielded questions regarding improving campus bars. He mentioned the potential of getting a jukebox for Dewey's and an arcade game for RATT. President Nick Dehod expressed a desire to acquire a game of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle variety.

Dehod also addressed questions regarding the recent executive retreat. He said that he felt that the executives were all able to plan many goals and he wished the councillors well on their upcoming retreat.



DAN MCKECHNIE

TRIMMING DOWN ArborCare staff cleaned up branches around campus after Edmonton's snowstorm on Tuesday.

STREETERS

As you may be aware, Edmonton got quite a bit of snow on Tuesday.
How did that affect your day?Compiled and photographed by
Evan Daum and Aaron YeoCarley Canuel
Nutrition VMegan Belanger
Nutrition VRory Tighe
Arts IVCameron Browne
Science II

It was a really big hassle because I was running around all day, driving from places. By the end of my day, my pants were wet up to my knees.

I was freezing, I froze all day. [Didn't have the proper coat?] No, not at all, I didn't have the proper footwear. I wore bare legs yesterday. Oh yeah, we got splashed.

It felt like an earlier unhappy, unpleasant Christmas where instead of receiving gifts, you receive unhappiness.

I was really depressed in the morning [...] Luckily I didn't have any plans to go out, but I had to shovel snow.

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Students should sign up for system: Dehod

EMERGENCY ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Stack noted that the U of A website is an important source of information and updates regarding any emergency event on campus. He hopes that students realize the importance of alerting others to danger.

“When someone does get an emergency message, it’s really important for them to spread the news,” he said.

The University is planning further improvements to the emergency notification system, including figuring out a way to prevent the message from ending up in people’s junk mail and working with cellular providers for more efficient delivery.

“We need to work with our provider, Everbridge, and the various [cellular] providers to make sure none of these messages are being blocked somehow,” Stack said. “There’s always things we can do to improve the process.”

Students’ Union President Nick Dehod said that many of the students who stated they had not received the message were actually not registered for notifications.

“I think the university’s statement was fairly accurate — that it worked but there is room for improvements.”

Dehod said that one positive from this incident would be that the university will look at the system, and students will make sure they’re registered.

“It’s unfortunate that it had to be utilized, but it’s a reminder to students to have these things in place, so that if something does happen on campus, they’re aware.”

U of A receives record donation

Charitable and government funds fuel new Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology

SIMON YACKULIC
Deputy News Editor

The Li Ka Shing (Canada) Foundation has donated \$28 million to the University of Alberta to fund the university's virology laboratories.

The donation is the largest cash endowment the institution has ever received. It was made public last month along with a matching \$52.5 million grant from the province, both of which are going towards virology research.

Dr. Lorne Tyrrell — who will be the founding director of the newly-christened Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology at the U of A — explained that besides being the largest donation in the university's history, the institute would add "prestige" to the U of A's reputation.

"I think this donation means a huge amount," Tyrrell said. "The Li Ka Shing Foundation does not give out money easily. They do a lot of due diligence to make sure that the investment that they are making is going to be a good investment."

David Jeu, the U of A's director of global development, echoed Tyrrell's statement on the honour the U of A received by being recognized.

"[Li Ka Shing] only funds places where they do their homework. They really looked at us long and hard to make sure the science was there, the governance was there, and they could make this investment and be confident."

He also emphasized the global reach he felt the donation would add to the U of A.

The Li Ka Shing Foundation is a charitable foundation set up by Li Ka-shing, a Chinese businessman who has major operations in his home base of Hong Kong and further business ventures worldwide, including a Canadian connection.

He currently owns a majority stake in Husky Energy. The Canadian wing of his charity, the Li Ka Shing (Canada)



AARON YEO

WHAT'S IN A NAME The new institute was christened at April 23's ceremony.

Foundation, was started after the tycoon divested from the CIBC and chose to donate the money and create a charity.

Tyrrell's research has already had a global impact. While working at the U of A, he led the research team responsible for developing Lamivudine, the first oral medication that effectively treats Hepatitis B.

"That Hepatitis B drug is the number one prescribed drug in China [...] I think that our work at the University of Alberta has significantly benefited the people of China," he said.

In turn, the Li Ka Shing (Canada)

Foundation's donation already seems to be benefiting the U of A.

"I think that the reputation of the institute will help bring some scientists to the University of Alberta," said Tyrrell.

In fact, a high-profile researcher in the viral field is coming to work at the Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology this summer.

"We will have at least one recruit who will join us — Dr. Michael Houghton, an outstanding scientist from San Francisco and he'll be joining us June 1. And he is the individual who discovered Hepatitis C — a very, very high-impact discovery."

Afghan ambassador praises mission

SCOTT FENWICK
News Staff

Afghanistan's ambassador to Canada claimed that, despite the violence that continues to affect his nation, most Afghans still support Canada's contribution to the country.

Jawed Ludin was part of a panel discussing Canada's role in Afghanistan at the Telus Centre on April 27. He said that the worst of the violence is over, and progress has been made since the Taliban were overthrown in 2001.

"What Canada has done for Afghanistan — [with] those young men who went to Kandahar to help — has made a difference in the lives of millions of people," he said. "That change is recognized. That change is real."

The ambassador also addressed the current controversy on whether Canadian troops knowingly handed detainees over to the Afghan government to be tortured.

Earlier during the same day of Ludin's panel discussion, the Speaker of the House of Commons ruled that the Conservative government must be more forthcoming in releasing documents detailing what it knew of the issue.

Ludin called federal politicians

"preoccupied" with the issue. He claimed the image of Canada's contribution in Afghanistan is one of "human rights, democracy, [and] rule of law [...] not abuse, not torture."

Ludin also addressed concerns about progress in the war against the Taliban, which he acknowledged is now longer in length than any war Canada has ever fought. He emphasized measuring progress not by the length of time, but rather by accomplishments on the ground.

"We simply haven't been able to address [the Taliban] appropriately. In 2001 and 2002, we removed them from Afghanistan and thought [they] simply evaporated into the air, when [they] actually relocated to somewhere else."

He admitted that when the Taliban mounted a comeback in 2005, they took his government by surprise, replacing the optimism the Afghan government felt in 2001.

"Just go back to 2001 and 2002, the beginning of the international intervention. This was unprecedented in the history of Afghanistan. We knew that this was different. We welcomed it. But times have changed."

He added that the Afghan government's efforts were insufficient and miscalculated when building national institutions and that objectives took

longer than they should have.

However, Ludin emphasized that the situation that ordinary Afghans face in 2010 is improved from what it was like during Taliban rule. He contrasted it with the image painted by international media reports covering the current war.

"When I go [to Afghanistan] and I land in Kandahar or Kabul, I see people busy," he said. "In Kabul, I take a taxi from the airport to my office, I get stuck in two hours of traffic, but I see along the way people living a normal life."

"If there's been a suicide attack the day before, the people don't care. Here in Canada, [for] people who follow Afghanistan, in their heads, the explosion of yesterday lingers on. You keep thinking about the explosion, therefore Afghanistan is insecure."

But Ludin claimed that Afghanistan has turned a corner and that Canada had a large role to play in this.

"Twenty years from now, when Afghanistan is democratic, or at least on the way to democracy, when Afghanistan is on its way to being self-reliant [...] that will be when you'll see the results of your contributions."

143 Canadian Forces members have died in Afghanistan since 2002.



Even the best of us feel like a lazy cat every once in a while, but by volunteering at the *Gateway* you'll be able to have that afternoon nap in good conscience, knowing that you've contributed a work of art to society. Email gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca for more info on how to get started.

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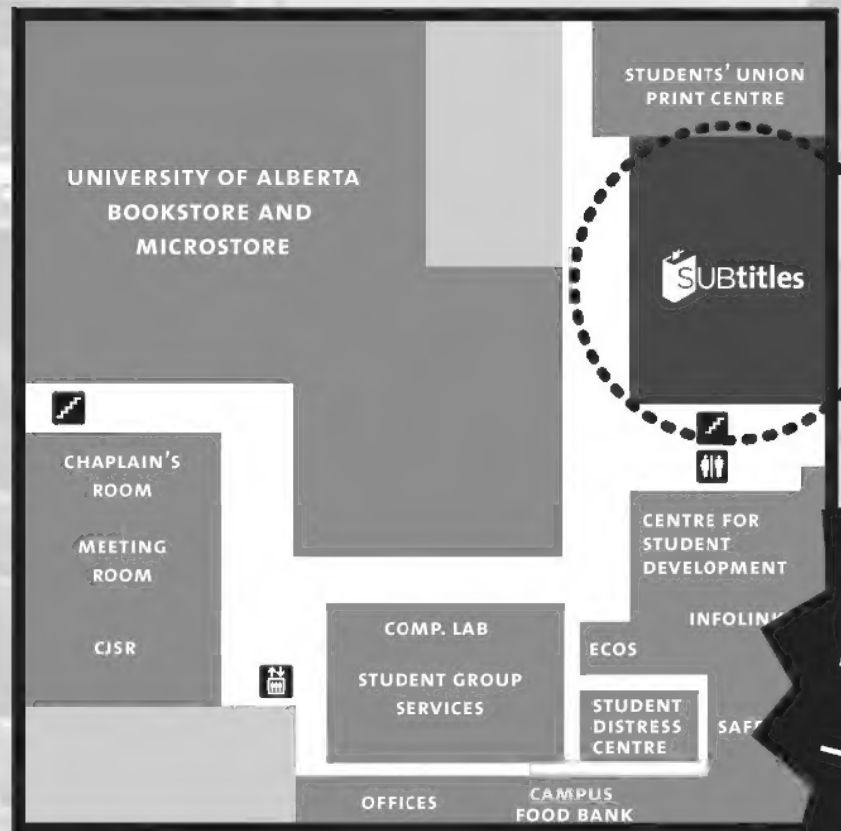
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OPINION EDITOR

The Gateway is accepting applications for the position of Opinion Editor** for the 2010/2011 publishing year.

The term runs to 30 April 2011. The full-time paid portion of the job runs from mid-August to the end of April. Five more issues of the Gateway will be produced over the summer months. The Opinion Editor will be expected to train on these issues for an honorarium of \$114.40/issue. In its full-time capacity, the salary for the position is \$1553.37* per month.



Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and portfolio to Gateway Business Manager Ashleigh Brown, 780-492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

THE GATEWAY

* Pay will be adjusted for inflation and is subject to change.
** Complete job description (subject to change) is available at gsjs.gateway.ualberta.ca



SUPPLIED

Lynx's trek shows adaptability

EVAN DAUM
News Staff

Travelling some 2,000 kilometres, a relocated male lynx's epic journey from Colorado to Alberta has shown researchers that the species is capable of greater mobility than initially believed.

The trek of that particular lynx was remarkable because the previous record distance travelled by the species was estimated to be in the 600-1,000 kilometre range.

Gabriela Yates, a PhD student in biological sciences, heads up the University of Alberta's Project Lynx, which has been studying the relationship between the lynx, its main food source, the snowshoe hare, and the lynx's migratory patterns.

"We've never had one [travel] nearly 2,000 kilometres for a straight line dispersal, so this re-emphasizes that these animals are biologically programmed to make these type of movements and are certainly capable," Yates said.

In addition to the sheer distance travelled, the lynx likely moved across a number of difficult man-made

terrains on his journey — a problem that will only increase for the species with further human development.

"One of the fears is that they're no longer able to make these long distance journeys, because of changes to the habitat [and] changes in the landscape in general [such as] clearcuts, or other uses to do with oil and industrial consumptive uses. We don't know if they'll be able to cross those types of habitats anymore."

The lynx's journey illustrates the tremendous mobility the species possesses as one of the most mobile land mammals. This shows researchers that while traditional migratory patterns will continue to be disrupted, it's still possible for the species to handle the changing circumstances.

"That animal crossed so many different types of habitats," Yates said. "It's important for us to note that one animal can do this; whether or not it's possible for a group of animals to do it, we still don't know."

The male lynx was originally captured near Kamloops, B.C. in 2003 and was transported to Colorado where he

was released. Eventually, he wound up close to his initial habitat on his journey, which ended in a trapline just outside Banff National Park as he looked for the ideal environment.

"Certainly it would have memories of what its habitat was like in British Columbia, so the fact that he was getting closer and closer to that type of habitat played a role. We certainly can't say he was trying to make his way home. I think he was trying to find a place where he felt his needs were met," Yates said.

With the lynx as a species facing an ever-shrinking habitat and corridors for its ongoing migration patterns, Yates says headlines about this particular lynx's story can help educate the public on the state of the species and the role it plays in the ecosystem.

"People call them the pulse of the boreal forest," Yates said. "It's something that we wouldn't know about if it wasn't for these incredible stories about these predators that travel these huge distances in search of this one prey source. It's something that's a mystery and captivates people."

U of A nanotech may benefit solar panels

LANCE MUDRYK
Design & Production Editor

One University of Alberta researcher intends to develop a more efficient, cheaper solar panel using nanotechnology.

Karthik Shankar, an assistant professor in the Faculty of Engineering, has been awarded a \$20,000 research grant and the Petro-Canada's Young Innovator Award in order to make his vision for solar panels a reality.

One of the largest advantages of his research proposal is increased functionality of solar cells. By implementing nanotechnology into semiconductors — materials used to convert sunlight into electricity — his solar panels will be able to harvest light more intensely and access a wider spectrum of the light given off by the sun.

"A solar cell works by harvesting light and converting it into electricity," Shankar explained. "[We're] using metal nanoparticles which have these so-called plasmonic properties."

According to Shankar, these plasmonic properties make the electromagnetic field of a structure much stronger. This will help the solar cells convert more electricity out of the light they're exposed to.

"When we simulated them, we saw

that these nanoparticles have a certain resonance, and at that resonance they really amplify the electromagnetic fields around those particles," he said.

Shankar explained that his proposal could possibly help solar technology take off, largely due to its economic feasibility. By using organic materials, metals, and a semiconductor known as titanium dioxide, he'll be able to bring down costs dramatically.

"[What we're proposing is] potentially a lot cheaper than what's out there," noted Shankar. "One of the problems that's preventing the eruption of solar technology is that the solar cells, which are made from American silicon, are very expensive. And so they're still not a viable competitor to fossil fuels."

Even though Shankar's been developing this proposal for a year now, he still believes that his idea could take five to 10 years before it will be commercially viable.

"The first objective is to translate these ideas, perform experiments, and actually realize the idea. Later on, if the idea is successful, we'll probably try to commercialize it in a spin-off company or license the intellectual property to a bigger company if they're interested."

Staff say phones are needed

PHONES ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jeremy Richards, who is a professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, said he was even able to pay for his graduate student's phone line for a while because of the research grants he gets.

He indicated that some departments in the Faculty of Arts are heavily reliant on grant funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

Professors who depend on funding from these types of grants are not allowed to apply them to phones.

"If you have some other kind of slush funds that you could pay for it from, that's okay," he said. "But if you were reliant on an National Sciences and Engineering Research Council grant or a SSHRC grant, you wouldn't be able to do that — you're not allowed to pay for a phone line."

Richards doesn't use his phone very often, but says many faculty members do and might be hit harder.

"In general, I think everybody uses their phone to a greater or lesser extent. It would be really bizarre to lose," he said. "It's a strange reaction, but it exemplifies the desperateness of the situation. The alternative is laying off more people."

Taser regulations shockingly vague

SEVERAL HIGH-PROFILE INCIDENTS INVOLVING injury or death have brought tasers into the public eye in recent years, but no single instance has had as significant an impact as the 2007 death of Robert Dziekanski; the incident that brought about changes to taser regulations earlier this week.

The Polish immigrant was shocked five times with a stun gun by RCMP officers at the Vancouver airport, and video footage caught of the incident spread around the world, coming to symbolize police brutality and the excessive use of force. A month ago, the RCMP finally apologized to Dziekanski's mother for the role they played in his tragic death, and released new restrictions on the use of tasers after a review. But the new amendments to the laws represent window dressings designed to comfort the public, that in actuality will do little to prevent events like Dziekanski's death from occurring again.

According to the new rules, the stun guns are now restricted to being used in instances where police have "reasonable grounds" to believe that someone will cause "bodily harm" to them or someone else. As well, police must issue a warning alerting the person that they're about to be tasered "when tactically feasible." Finally, the new rules limit prolonged shocks to under five seconds and restrict multiple shocks, which have been attributed for many of the deaths caused by Taser use. However, a provision was put in the guidelines stated that those restrictions can be changed in cases where "situational factors dictate otherwise."

Interim Commission Chair of the federal Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP Ian McPhail noted that he felt that the new requirements were "clearly defined" and would help curb excessive use. But what isn't immediately apparent is what he feels is clearly defined about them. The updated regulations are written in an intentionally vague and open-ended manner, which conveniently leaves considerable room for interpretation. This still allows the police to use Tasers in pretty much any manner they want, since having "reasonable grounds" or "situational factors" is completely subjective. In that sense, the new rules are a PR move that make very little practical difference.

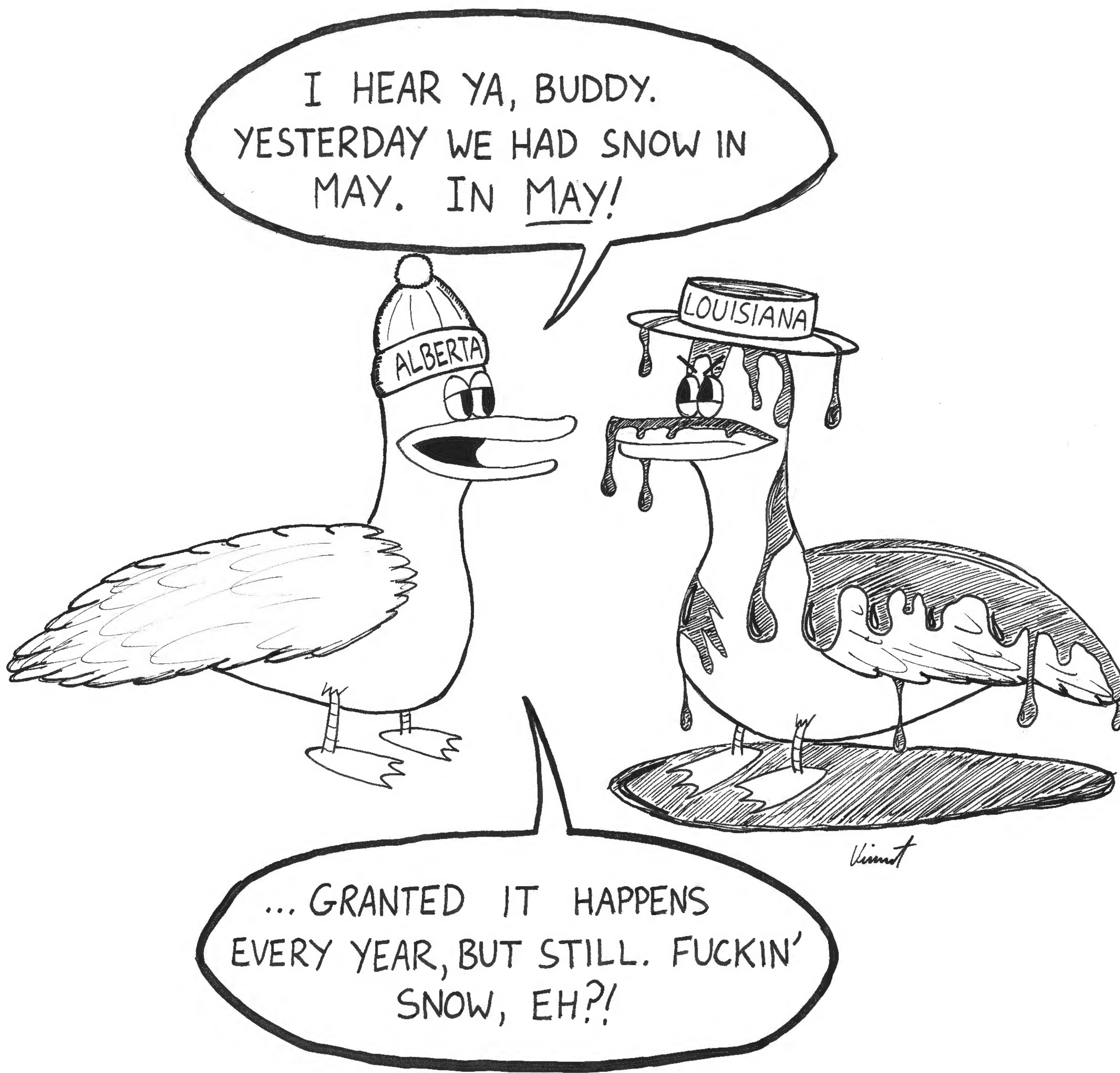
The RCMP Assistant Commissioner Bob Paulson said that the new regulations were more precise, constricting appropriate taser use to instances where there was "a threat to officer or public safety." In that case, these new rules would have done nothing to prevent Dziekanski's death, since being belligerent at the airport could be interpreted as a threat to public safety, and the ambiguity of "situational factors" could have been used to justify shocking him multiple times. These new guidelines don't even address the problem they were designed to deal with.

Obviously, it's impossible to determine every situation that a police officer may face on a day-to-day basis. As such, there's some level of subjectivity that's necessary. By removing their ability to make judgements on a case-by-case basis by too stringently dictating their actions, it would decrease their ability to do their job appropriately. But in the case of tasers, more specific guidelines are necessary to prevent deaths and a complete ban on multiple shocks seems justified.

Such a requirement would represent an improvement, but the question remains as to whether taser use is justified at all. Since so much of their deployment falls to an officer's personal discretion, any regulations will be, at some level, ineffective. Either stun guns are used, or they aren't; if they are and can potentially lead to health problems or deaths, they could always pose a risk, regardless of how many regulations are made trying to prevent that.

It's ultimately a debate that will rage on as long as they're being employed as a law enforcement weapon. But at present, stun guns are still being used and these new regulations are ultimately a pointless gesture. All they accomplish is allowing the higher-ups in the RCMP to smile and feel good because it looks to the public like they're doing something to address the issue. The saddest part about it all is that after all the investigations and inquiries into taser use after Dziekanski's death, the new rules don't prevent it from happening again.

JOHN KMECH
Editor-in-Chief



letters TO THE eds

ExpressNews restricts expression

The ExpressNews section on the main page of the University of Alberta's website is a great source to keep informed on current events around the school. However, the ability to respond to the articles in ExpressNews takes from that same community.

Why are responses to articles not on the same page? Why are they monitored before they are posted? Should we not have full freedom of speech and expression while having an open and easily accessible form of debate? For a University where knowledge and accountability should be of great concern, I feel this part is sorely missing both.

BILL MATHIAS
Via email

from THE web

HUB evacuation merits thorough explanation

RE: (HUB resident's death subject to police investigation, April 13)
"McGillis would not release any

details about the victim, saying that this death is 'not of public interest.'"

A death occurs in a public building, in a public institution, and they're confident in saying that it's not in public interest? Please. This incident caused the evacuation of a huge part of the campus, and they're comfortable in leaving students in the dark? This is a place that I spend a massive amount of my life and it's somewhere where I need to be able to feel safe.

I understand the need for discretion in respect to the departed and their family, but this is in public interest.

JEFF SAVAGE
Via Internet

Tips for would-be thieves

RE: (5-0 nabs bookstore fraudsters, April 1)

Why would they sell them to the used book store? That has to be one of the dumbest things I've heard all year.

"Wait. I have an idea. Let's steal books and risk getting charged with theft under \$5000, only to then take them to the used book store who will rape us for every penny." Not that I support the stealing, but if you're going to do it, do it right. Sell them privately.

"SHAWN B"
Via Internet

In my experience...

RE: (Drug tests shouldn't weed out pot use, April 1)

My marks have gone up significantly since I started smoking weed. I believe it is far safer and less destructive on society than drinking is.

"ALAN"
Via Internet

Time to halt pay raises

RE: (Sacrifices should extend to University administration, April 1)

UA administrators and professors still get the increase in their salaries every year, including this year. They should cut a little bit of their salaries and benefits, rather than increasing student fees.

MIKE LEE
Via Internet

Indira's feelin' no shame

RE: (Sacrifices should extend to University administration, April 1)

Indira should be ashamed of herself for touring the faculties to make students feel guilty about not paying more tuition while she makes close to a million a year. Not saying she doesn't work hard, but for that money she better be at it 24/7. She would have had better results and

ROSS VINCENT

gained respect if she and the other fat-cat admins had took the lead and committed to lowering their own salaries and benefits before asking students to sacrifice.

"JM"
Via Internet

Album battle provokes family feud

RE: (Album Battle: Special Sibling Edition, March 31)

I am sitting with my family, getting ready for Easter dinner. Just read your review aloud: it was much appreciated. After supper, and several bottles of wine, Patrick and I will be wrestling/boxing in the front yard. Keep up the good work.

TOM KEENAN
Via Internet

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca. Website comments may occasionally be printed.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student number to be considered for publication.



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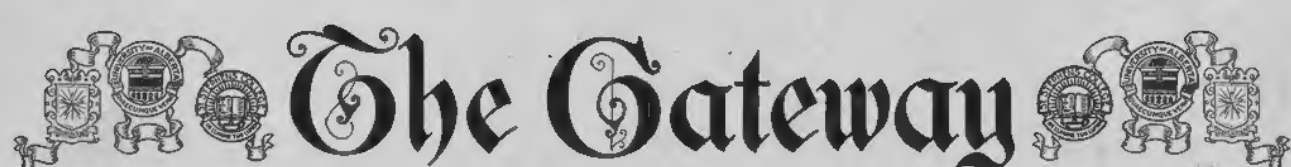
Have you or someone you know ever been involved with the Gateway in its century on campus?

Do you have old issues of the Gateway or any other Gateway-related items of historical significance?

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The Gateway celebrates its official centennial anniversary on November 20, 2010 at the Chateau Lacombe in Downtown Edmonton. Watch for more information in future issues of the Gateway, or contact the GAA.



A part of our heritage since 1910

Toy bylaw no match for parental laziness



CODY CIVIERO

"The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted to ban toys from fast food meals that contain more than 485 calories, over 600 mg of salt, or high amounts of sugar or fat. Unsurprisingly, the criteria encompasses every Happy Meal on the McDonald's menu."

In spite of all the gripes I might have about my parents' upbringing style over the course of my developing years, I can look back with respect at their approach to nutrition and fast food. Tantalizing, grease-dripping kids' meals and the shiny prizes that accompanied them were a luxury I was only afforded a handful of times throughout the year, which made the trips all the more magical.

But they're a luxury that will no longer be afforded to today's children of Silicon Valley. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted to ban toys from fast food meals that contain more than 485 calories, over 600 mg of salt, or high amounts of sugar or fat. Unsurprisingly, the criteria encompasses every Happy Meal on the McDonald's menu.

I'll concede that there are legitimate ethical issues with putting toys in unhealthy meals. It's a textbook example of classical conditioning, training children to associate fast food with rewards. No reasonable parent wants their kid to be one of Pavlov's dogs, drooling at the sight of a Big Mac, but the real way to avoid that would be by not letting a

five-year-old dictate their meal choices.

Ken Yeager of the Board of Supervisors argues that "this ordinance prevents restaurants from preying on children's love of toys to peddle high-calorie, high-fat, high-sodium kids' meals." But unless their latchkey parents seriously fucked up, the kindergartners aren't the ones handing the cashiers the bills. The only thing being preyed upon is parental ineptitude, weakness, and stupidity.

These moms and dads don't give a damn about calories, sodium, or toys. And the real draw of these meals isn't the plastic piece of crap inside; it's frankly the ease and cheapness with which they can feed their kids without getting off their lazy asses. Even if the lack of a toy is of any significance to them, they're free to buy all the second-rate junk their kids want from the dollar store across the street afterwards. The Board of Supervisors can be proud of the mild inconvenience they've inflicted.

I'm hesitant to generalize, but this is so indicative of "made in California" progressivism that it's impossible to resist. There is a perverse hypocrisy

in this smug mindset. For an ideology supposedly predicated on egalitarianism, self-described "progressives" constantly issue edicts over their loudspeakers that condescendingly imply that their constituents are barbarians who can't be trusted to act responsibly. But have no fear; these sanctimonious Übermenschs among men will find a paternalistic shortcut to fix every social problem imaginable.

That's what's truly aggravating about this kind of legislation. The redneck who rails against gay marriage and Hispanic immigrants while draped in a Confederate flag is aware of, and proud of, his intolerance and desire to impose his perspective onto the public sphere. But the Santa Clara types honestly view themselves as exemplars of tolerance, only to pass law after law restricting options and dictating the lifestyle choices of others.

I'll grant that people are idiots, but that's precisely why they shouldn't be arbitrarily restricting consumer choice. Hey, at least I know I'm a fucking caveman. That's more than can be said of the guys who just threw Ronald McDonald in a cell with Joe Camel.

Banning burqa an infringement of rights

Governments show cultural intolerance to Muslim women's right to modesty



MUSTAFA FAROOQ

burqa or the niqab are essential parts of maintaining the hijab. Thus, there are only a few dozen women in the entire province of Quebec who wear the burqa, but thousands of Muslim women in Quebec wear the hijab.

At a time when we are involved in the greatest recession of our times, it's a bit rich of us to focus so much media attention and scrutiny onto the heads of the 60-odd women who wear the niqab in Quebec. Premier Jean Charest issued them an ultimatum: "two words: uncovered face."

It's ironic that after years of fighting for the rights of women to make their own choices, even self-proclaimed feminists are campaigning for the rights of some women to be taken away.

According to the argument behind the law, as stated by Quebec's minister on the status of women, niqabs are "ambulatory prisons" that are instruments of patriarchy, indicating that they're imposed on Muslim women by Muslim men. There's no need for Quebec authorities to back this up with evidence; this is, to them, merely the way it is.

People will continue to insist that the niqab is an instrument of patriarchy. Fair enough. But if that really was the case, why should we stop at the niqab? Let's ban all patriarchal institutions — rap, bikinis, and models. Let's ban it all. Let us stop Jay-Z and

his cronies from filling the minds of youth with chauvinistic ideals and end the bikini, which is the personified symbol of female objectification. Oh yes, let's ban the institution of the family as well. After all, the way that men work to earn for their families while women raise the children is clearly a medieval practice that must be forcibly ended.

Our Charter of Rights and Freedoms includes religious freedom and this law should be struck down as a human rights violation if it passes. At the same time, I don't feel particularly sympathetic about the actions of an Egyptian woman who kickstarted this whole fiasco in a CEGEP French class. Instead of trying to follow Muslim rules of etiquette and courteously explaining why she felt the need to wear the niqab, she decided to allow cultural views to be conflated with religious ones.

She decided that the best way for her to preserve her modesty was to turn away from the classroom when giving a presentation, and asking all the males of the class to turn away from her. Her culturally-influenced actions are nearly as infuriating as the proposed ban. Although the restrictions will hopefully be struck down, her choices will influence the way a lot of people think about Canadian Muslims for some time.

It's ironic that after years of fighting for the rights of women to make their own choices, even self-proclaimed feminists are campaigning for the rights of some women to be taken away. I suppose that's really what the niqab debate is: ironic. In a country celebrated internationally as a diverse and multicultural nation, we are taking one step forward to leaving that heritage behind. We will create freedom by ending freedom.

Explicit sex ed draws religious ire

Kids need real sex education, not puritanical rhetoric from evangelist groups



ALIX KEMP

Plans to introduce a comprehensive sex-education program in Ontario got shot down last week when conservative Christian groups pointed out that the Ministry of Education had, shockingly, included references to sex in a curriculum designed to teach about sexuality. Premier Dalton McGuinty, who initially supported the new program, now claims that he was unaware of the sexual content until an evangelist group complained in April. This is despite the fact that the 208-page outline of the program was posted on the Ministry of Education's website back in January. McGuinty's flip-flop is a stunning display of cowardice that threatens to send schools back to the Victorian age in an attempt to placate puritanical fundamentalists.

The new health and physical education curriculum was based on two years of consultation with parents, schools, and health experts. Annie Kidder, whose parent group People for Education sent the details of the program to 5,000 parents, indicated that many felt the new program adapted sex education to the needs of the 21st century. However, evangelist Charles McVety and his group of right-wing Christians are horribly offended by the frank discussions of sexuality, and the program's acknowledgement of gender identity and sexual orientation. McVety accused the premier of

listening to "special interest groups with an agenda."

Especially "controversial" was the third grade curriculum, which discussed showing respect for people's differences. I suppose I can understand how Christian evangelists find that problematic. The curriculum mentioned gay marriage, a topic obviously much too difficult for children to grasp; in fact, according to the religious right, even mentioning homosexuality might turn kids gay.

Evangelist Charles McVety and his group of right-wing Christians are horribly offended by frank discussions of sexuality, and the program's acknowledgement of sexual orientation.

Reverend Ekron Malcom, who is involved with the coalition against the new sex education program, feels that sexual orientation is a "very personal and sensitive area," and if discussed with children, it will "end up infringing on their thought processes and their desires and ability to make correct choices."

Other parts of the program that encountered resistance include teaching first graders about the proper names for body parts, including genitalia. Apparently, they're much too young to know about parts of their own bodies and should stick to tying their shoelaces. Also taboo is making it clear to sixth and seventh

graders that anal and oral intercourse carry the risk of sexually transmitted diseases.

Social conservatives and religious groups argue that sexuality is best discussed in the home. However, the only discussion they want to have with their children is easily summed up as "don't do it." This would be great if the abstinence approach actually worked, but it doesn't. Kids who receive abstinence-only education are more likely to engage in risky sexual activity and much less likely to use contraceptives. Despite the claims of sexual education critics, sex ed doesn't encourage kids to be promiscuous. Multiple studies have demonstrated that teens who receive comprehensive sex education tend to wait longer before having sex and are less likely to have unwanted pregnancies or STDs.

What's especially appalling in this case is the debate over mentioning gay marriage in the classroom. As much as McVety and company might not like it, gay marriage has been legal in Canada since 2005. If it's appropriate to discuss marriage with third graders, there's absolutely nothing offensive about mentioning gay marriage.

It's just unfortunate that the fundamentalists are worried that by teaching kids that homosexuality is normal, their children will abandon the bigoted point of view passed down by their parents. There's no logical reason for any provincial government to refuse to teach about queerness and gay marriage in a country that grants gay men and women equal legal rights.

By backing down on comprehensive sex education, McGuinty is caving to special interest groups with an agenda: McVety and his right-wing, fundamentalist cronies.

Red-head prejudice an unsung problem



BRUCE CINNAMON

"From the 'Kick a Ginger Day' Facebook group to the treatment of 15-year-old Adam Bailey, who hung himself in October 2008 after continual harassment at school, this discrimination has been largely tolerated, since it isn't considered to be 'real prejudice.'"

I've never imagined that my luscious orange locks could cause me any strife. In fact, my glorious mane of sun-drenched hair has earned me many compliments. But there are those who have faced persecution, prejudice, and hate for this specific physical feature. It's a seldom acknowledged criterion for discrimination — and understandably so, because in terms of quantity, I'm not sure that my demographic represents a particularly large piece of the "motives for hate crimes" pie chart.

It's a sensitive and difficult process to claim some sort of victim status. It may seem indulgent and unjust — we don't share the long history of persecution that other minorities have faced, nor is it fair to imply that our defamation in any way equals that of groups that suffer more deeply entrenched bigotry. We are generally white-skinned and from Northern countries, and thus have been given opportunities and privileges that other groups can only dream of. But acknowledging the relative insignificance of our suffering — and knowing full well that this may seem as petty as Glenn Beck claiming victim status because Barack is Prez — we must no longer remain mute on a subject which deserves to be publicly condemned.

From the "Kick a Ginger Day" Facebook group to the treatment of 15-year-old Adam Bailey, who hung himself in October 2008 after continual harassment at school, this discrimination has been largely tolerated, since it isn't considered to be "real prejudice." Though we are far from having a cohesive identity as a group, I feel compelled to comment on the subject, both as an act of solidarity with my redheaded brothers and sisters, and in response to a recently-released music video.

M.I.A.'s music video "Born Free" addresses gingerism in a deliberately provocative manner. Over the course of the nine-minute video, red-headed males of all ages are shown being rounded up by American soldiers, shipped into the desert, and forced to run over a minefield. Banned from YouTube, then re-instated, before being blocked off with an age restriction, the video has aroused a great deal of controversy since it leaves very little to the imagination.

In addition to exploding flesh and plenty of nightstick pummeling, a little boy gets shot in the head. The actor, 12-year-old Ian Hamrick, says that he understands the video "shows violence to end violence," though others have taken the theme less

seriously. Reviews have questioned whether it's fair to depict redheaded people as a suffering minority. The *Village Voice* goes so far as to state that they "can think of no goofier political allegory than the persecution, abuse, and murder of redheads."

Such comments show the mixed feelings towards granting victim status to a not-quite-recognized minority. At less than two per cent of the human population, we are undeniably a visible minority, but in most countries, we still enjoy all the privileges of our brown-haired brethren. Most importantly, the fact that red hair is a "goofy" choice for persecution is the very obvious point of the video—discrimination is inherently irrational and anyone can suffer hatred based on any bias, no matter how trivial or nonsensical.

Of course, gingerism isn't prevalent in North America, but it continues to be a huge problem in the UK, where women are sexually harassed and men have been physically assaulted based on their hair colour. While not seeking to equate the suffering of redheads to that of other racial minorities, it must still be recognized as a prejudice and condemned where it's found. In light of this, M.I.A.'s video isn't so silly after all.



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1872: Eadweard Muybridge begins motion-capture experiments at Stanford, using multiple cameras triggered in sequence to record the action of animals running.



1874: Muybridge shoots and kills his wife's lover. Stanford pays for his legal expenses, and he is acquitted under terms of "justifiable homicide."

GATEWAY PHOTO

Experimental since 1910

RODEO ALBERTA'S PASSION

WORDS BY JUSTIN BELL

PHOTOS BY DAN MCKECHNIE



The overbearing smell of manure stings the senses — a sharp odour of rotting waste, cut with straw. Large farm animals mill about in pens at one end of the arena, while horses are penned in another. An announcer can be heard over the din of the crowd, riling spectators up and keeping their attention focused squarely on the centre of the action. A small fleet of Dodge and Ford trucks dot the parking lot, with enough horsepower to pull a city block halfway to Montana.



It's all part of a singular experience that has taken over the small community of Leduc at the Black Gold Rodeo for the weekend, but will be repeated across the prairies over the next four months. From the end of April until September, small towns in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and British Columbia will all play host to rodeos of varying size, from large professional events to more downscale, amateur competitions.

While events happen all across the prairies and into B.C., Alberta plays host to the majority of the rodeos and acts as a hub of rodeo culture. Jim Pippolo, the rodeo administrator for the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA), said this province has a history connected to rodeo due to our background of agriculture and ranching.

"Our sport is derived from the everyday working of cowboys. Agriculture is a big thing here. People like to identify with the western way of life," said Pippolo. "We have most of the biggest rodeos in Canada."

Of the 58 professional rodeos in the country this year, nearly 40 of those are in Alberta. On top of that, Pippolo said he figured there was some 300 to 400 events going on across the province, from amateur to high-school events.

While the sport might have started in cattle-ranching areas of south western US, it's a

cultural event Albertans have taken on as their own, having been named as Alberta's official sport.

While the two big rodeos may happen in major cities — Calgary and Edmonton — small towns take their share of the rodeo pie. The third-largest rodeo happens in Ponoka, a town of 6,500 people an hour-and-a-half drive south of Edmonton. They put on a seven-day affair from June 28 to July 4, with huge prize money for competitors and a number of entertainers to keep people engaged.

According to Pippolo, small towns manage to connect anything and everything to their rodeo, providing entertainment for everyone from kids to seniors.

"[Small towns] only have one or two major celebrations a year, so rodeo in small towns are very big. They offer the whole experience. They try and draw people from out of town to come in."

Drawing people also brings economic benefits to the communities involved. The week-long competition of the Canadian Finals Rodeo brings in nearly \$50 million for Edmonton, with a huge influx of cowboys spending money on everything from hotels and food, to trucks.

"They sell more Dodge trucks in that weekend

than they do all year. It's all built around rodeo," Pippolo noted.

Down and Dirty

In Leduc, where one of the first rodeos of the season takes place, there's a nightly cabaret going on with various country and western performers. Competitors come in and spend money at the local bars and restaurants, boosting the local economy.

But it's also a cultural event. The week before, the arena could have been hosting a figure skating class or a hockey game for the local Junior B team, the Riggers. But this weekend is the Black Gold Rodeo, so there's calves penned at one end of the arena, while nervous broncos await their eight seconds of fame at the other.

Rocky Dallyn stands off to the side, sipping a drink and talking to friends while cowboys square off at calf roping, chasing down a rebellious calf and snagging it as quickly as possible.

Dallyn is a veteran of the rodeo circuit, having competed for 30 years. He started at the tender age of 13, moving his way up through the various levels.

"It's something I've always done," said Dallyn. "I love the horses and the Western way of life. I really want to compete."

He tried a number of the rougher events when he was younger — both saddle bronc and bull riding. But he settled on roping, where he makes his specialty in the team event. As of the beginning of May, Dallyn was the top heeler in the province, the team member who has to rope the calf's back legs.

Now, 30 years in, it's an activity he can't walk away from. The rancher from Nanton, Alta. is typical of the rodeo subset. Most cowboys have grown up around it, having lived on a farm or in small towns with ranches close by. Some have come to it from big cities after having attended an event, but most, especially those in roping events and timed events, have a background on the ranch.

Competing on the circuit, for the vast majority, is about making it to the end. Much like the NHL has the Stanley Cup or the NFL has the Super Bowl, cowboys in the CPRA dream of making it to the Canadian Finals Rodeo.

"The CFR is the reason we go to all these rodeos throughout the year," said Dallyn.

Over the next four months, he'll travel back and forth across the prairies, trying to make enough money to make it to the national competition. If he does well enough at the various small-town rodeos, he can be one of the 105





cowboys and cowgirls who makes it to the CFR every year.

But it won't be easy. There are some 800 competitors in the CPRA, all vying for spots in the November competition. The average cowboy will travel some 70,000 kilometres a year, competing on Vancouver Island one weekend, then off to Winnipeg or High Prairie the next.

"For myself, [the travel] is the one part that does start to wear you down," Dallyn explains.

And while professional athletes in other sports bring home huge paycheques, only 10 to 15 per cent of those on the CPRA circuit will make a living at rodeo. The Ponoka Stampede pays out \$12,000 for some events, while the Calgary Stampede hands out \$100,000 on their final day.

But that's only for the top competitors — many will end up working in the oil patch during the winter or taking on part-time jobs to support themselves. Dallyn had only accumulated \$2,150 as of the beginning of May, looking to increase his earnings through 2010.

An All-Ages Sport

The desire to stay on the circuit starts at a young age. High school rodeo gets competitors hooked, and then they transfer into college and

university rodeo. Kenda Coulthard, a U of A student, competes on the weekends over the summer while attending school in the winter.

The first year Masters of Science in Physical Therapy student has been competing in the Canadian Intercollegiate Rodeo Association since 2006. She will spend the next four months travelling to various rodeos to compete in barrel racing, the one event reserved solely for cowgirls.

"The rodeo community — when you're part of it, there's nothing like it," said Coulthard. "Having horses, it gave me something else to do when people were going to bush parties."

The Rimbey native grew up around the rodeo, despite being a townie. At 11, she started riding and bought her own horse at 14. And now she's trying to get back to finals for the fifth time in as many years.

But to get there, she's juggling school work with competition. She said her program didn't suggest taking a part-time job or other commitments, but Coulthard makes it out to Sherwood Park to work with her horse and train four to five times a week.

With the first competition in Olds happening over the April 24 weekend, she had her runs moved around so she could compete on Saturday

night and Sunday morning. She then drove back to Edmonton for a practice lab that night.

Travelling will be less of a concern for Coulthard this year, however, as her horse was injured earlier this season. While last year she made it to 20 professional and 10 amateur rodeos, her steed's wound will likely prevent her from competing for a month or two. She said she will try to make it back for the beginning of July for an event just after the Ponoka Stampede.

But for Coulthard, the joy comes from the competition and the feeling of belonging among peers, not the money or the prestige.

"You're definitely like one big family," said Coulthard.

That same sense is prevalent at any rodeo in Alberta. It's a cultural event as much for the crowd as it is for the cowboys. As barrel racers round the last corner, the crowd cheers them through. The bull rider that gets tossed off gets a round of applause as he gets up off the dirt, a communal thank you for the visceral excitement he provides.

"Rodeo is holding its own, for sure," said Pippolo. "It's entertainment. We're there to put on a show."

A show that may be enjoyed across the prairies, but which has its home here in Alberta.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

By Dustin Blumhagen

Bareback

The casual rodeo fan will likely claim that bull riding is the most dangerous rodeo event. In reality, the bareback is the most physically demanding and results in the majority of injuries. Bareback takes its name from the small leather rigging that is placed on the front half of a horse, which leaves nothing beneath the rider. A handhold that looks like a suitcase handle is the only thing that the rider has to hold onto with his gloved hand. All rough stock events (bareback, saddle bronc, bull riding, and wild horse riding) last for eight seconds and contain a rule that the animal cannot be touched with the rider's free hand. The run is scored by multiple judges, with half of the score based upon the animal's performance and half on the rider's, out of a maximum of 100 points.

Saddle Bronc

This is considered to be the first rodeo event, originating in the American west with cowboys on ranches competing to break wild horses. The rider sits on a modified saddle (the horn is removed) and holds onto a braided rope, while trying to stay balanced on the bucking horse. This event is less physically demanding than the other rough stock events, relying more on finesse and timing. If the cowboy times his spurring with the horse, it's similar to riding a 1,000-pound rocking chair.

Bull Riding

The most beloved rodeo showcase amongst fans, bull riding combines mean animals with fast-paced action in the arena. An element of danger exists because the bulls will occasionally turn on the rider and try to gore him, which is why the bullfighter is an integral part of the event. These colourful clowns are the top physical specimens in the sport and the importance of their efforts is often overlooked by the crowd. The riders are more likely to appreciate the bullfighters who draw the attention of the angry bull.

Calf Roping/Team Roping

These events rely on the speed of a cowboy and his horse, and their combined ability to catch a running calf. Calf roping involves a single cowboy who dismounts his horse and wraps the calf's feet after catching him around the neck with a lasso. It's a speed event, so there are penalties for various infractions such as breaking the barrier too soon after the calf has left. Team roping features two cowboys who chase down a single calf; the first cowboy has to cleanly rope the calf around the neck, followed by his partner who catches the hind feet. If one misses, they're both disqualified.

Barrel Racing

This is usually the only event at a rodeo that features female athletes. The cowgirl and her horse race against the clock to complete a cloverleaf pattern of barrels placed in the arena. If they knock over any of the three barrels, they'll get a time penalty. This is the fastest rodeo event, with horses often reaching high speeds on the last leg of the circuit.



Danny Bhoy happy to trade bald eagles for maple syrup

comedypreview

Danny Bhoy

Thursday, May 13 at 7 p.m.

Winspear Centre (102 Avenue and 99 Street)
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EVAN MUDRYK
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Scottish comedian and all-around international man of comedy Danny Bhoy has more than a few reasons to adore Canada. First of all, his 2005 appearance at Montreal's Just For Laughs comedy festival was arguably the moment that launched his career. He has since gone on to tour Canada several times, and has made the Great White North his home away from home.

"I really like [Canada]. I think it's very close to Scotland," Bhoy says. "It's probably the one place I can go and not feel too far from home. Also, the sense of humour is quite similar as well, so it's just an easy fit for me."

Born Danni Chaudhry, Bhoy, who's coming off a brief tour through America, is happy to be crossing the border to the North. He doesn't see the neighbouring countries as being all that similar, at least in terms of the people who attend his shows.

"I think Canada is very different from America. If [Americans] don't know you from television, they tend to treat you like a kind of background entertainment," Bhoy explains. "Whereas there's more tradition here [...] of actually going out to a theatre and making a night of seeing a comedian.

"It's a lot better to perform here in Canada [...] than it is in the States."

Although he does appreciate a Canadian audience to an American one, he says he's not particularly picky when it comes to countries he performs in. Bhoy also doesn't like to indulge his audience with too many jokes about themselves, insisting that isn't what people come to hear from his shows.

"I do my thing. It doesn't really matter what territory I'm performing in; I'll still talk about the thing that's interesting me," Bhoy says. "A lot of the places that I go back to now have quite a regular crowd or following, and they don't just want to hear me make fun of them or do jokes about their country."

Even though he doesn't like to pander to his audience, it's clear that cultural differences do affect his performance to some degree. Bhoy — who's half Indian on his father's side — appeared in the first English language comedy show in India three years ago. He's surprisingly frank about the difficulties he had telling jokes in the comedically-exotic local, where English is only a second language.

"There's a difference between understanding English and having an acute sense of humour. I felt like it was a tougher gig. I did three shows — about 800 people a night. It took about the first 10 minutes or so of the first gig to work out what was going on, what they found funny and didn't find funny, and I just tailored the show around that."

After talking so much about the places he's been and how much he's travelled in the past decade, Bhoy's life sounds eerily reminiscent of the film *Up in the Air*. Bhoy had, in fact, seen the movie and admitted that it struck home for him, as he's quite used to waking up in unfamiliar places.

"There were a lot of things I could identify with in that movie," he states, before pausing for emphasis. "A lot."



Musician Meaghan Smith makes tour soup

musicpreview

Meaghan Smith

With F&M

Sunday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Haven Social Club (15120A Stony Plain Road)

\$17 at Ticketmaster

BRYAN SAUNDERS
Arts & Entertainment Staff

It's the evening, just before dinner time, as Meaghan Smith and I sit in our respective kitchens and chat on the phone.

Straight off, Smith — who some might know for her cute and quirky cover of the Pixies song "Here Comes Your Man" — strikes me as cheery and upbeat; however, the faint trace of weariness in her voice reveals that she's also had a very busy day.

The songstress — who describes her more recent music as "modern vintage" — reveals that, indeed, she's been plugging away at life: writing new songs, packing her bags, giving out interviews, tweeting with her fans, and gardening. There's a lot on her plate, in more ways than one.

"We're actually leaving tomorrow to go away on tour for about a month, so I've been emptying out the fridge," she notes. "Actually, I'm just making some tour soup."

Come again?

"Tour soup. You take everything in your fridge and make it into soup!" she says with a laugh. "Yeah, it's really exciting and glamorous, the lifestyle

of a touring musician."

As much as I can't stomach the idea of "tour soup," it's refreshing to hear Smith crack some jokes — especially when a few hours earlier she was threatening on her Twitter page to "wring [her] guitar's neck."

Smith laughs off the aforementioned post. Songwriting can just be really frustrating sometimes, she explains.

"It just turns into a battle with [those] songs — especially really late at night when I'm committed to finishing the song and I won't let myself sleep until I get the song figured out."

MEAGHAN SMITH
ON SONG WRITING

"I set this goal for myself to write a song a week," Smith says, "So far, I've been doing pretty good — four weeks straight and I've got at least four songs.

"But some songs are just the devil!" she moans. "They're almost there. You can feel that it's so close to actually being a finished song, but for some reason, there's just a part that's not working or something that's not making sense.

"It just turns into a battle with

[those] songs — especially really late at night when I'm committed to finishing the song and I won't let myself sleep until I get the song figured out. It always works out, but sometimes it's just a little bit of a fight to get the song written."

For all this talk of songwriting, it's interesting that Smith — whose mother is a piano teacher and whose father is a musician in his own right — is the only one of her three sisters who can't read or write sheet music.

"Yeah, I wish I had studied more and learned that stuff," she confesses. "I think it's invaluable to be able to communicate with other musicians.

"I mean, it would definitely save a lot of time if I could just go into the studio and tell people exactly what I'm thinking. Right now, I sort of have to use hand gestures and make noises and stuff, which at times can be a little strange for people," she laughs.

While on the subject of her family, she explains that with only days left, she's hasn't gotten her mom anything for Mother's Day yet.

"I haven't — I didn't get her anything yet!" Smith, who's originally from Ontario but resides in Halifax, exclaims, with no small amount of stress in her voice. "I'm actually going to be playing a show back home in Toronto on Mother's Day too, so I don't know. I might make a little swing down home and give her some flowers or give her a little present or something. Maybe make my mom supper or something."

So long as it's not tour soup, she should be fine.





Gross' comedy doesn't miss mark

filmreview

Gunless

Directed by William Phillips
Starring Paul Gross and Sienna Guillory
Now Playing

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

The Canadian movie industry is a strange animal. For the most part, an artist has two options: they can either head south of the border to break into the Hollywood scene or they can choose to struggle eternally making art films and low budget pictures in their homeland. Paul Gross has chosen the latter path, putting his love of Canada before dreams of fame and money. While many Canadians might recognize him on the street from his days playing a displaced Mountie on *Due South*, he has never reached the status of fellow Canucks like Jim Carrey or dreamboat Ryan Gosling.

Having met the man behind the movies though, it isn't a surprise to find

out that Gross really is the stereotypically humble Canadian. It's ironic then that his latest film, *Gunless*, affords him the opportunity to portray an American who mistakenly ends up lost north of the border.

Like Gross' previous forays into film, this western-comedy hybrid recognizes that the average person enjoys poking fun at both themselves and the formulaic aspects of the genre being portrayed. Stereotypes are constantly introduced throughout the film for comedic purpose, from the bickering Englishman and Frenchman who share the general store, to the even-tempered citizens of the town who are reluctant to engage the volatile American in a gunfight. During the opening scene, where Gross rides into the sleepy town seated backwards upon his horse, the film lets the viewers know that it intends to entertain rather than force a deeper socio-political message about the relationship between Canada and the U.S.

Gross plays an American gunslinger who finds himself in a Canadian town that doesn't understand the violent "code of the West." Naturally, there's a token love story entwined within the main plot, but it never really feels like

it's an authentic addition to the movie.

On the other hand, the colourful cast of supporting characters has enough depth to make up for any inadequacies in the main storyline. From the soft-spoken giant blacksmith — portrayed by Tyler Mane in stark contrast to his roles in Rob Zombie's films — to the always-delightful Graham Greene, all of the characters are charming in their own right. And staying true to the western genre, the climax revolves around a gunfight. But the movie excels by avoiding the tired clichés (at least, the ones it's not directly parodying) while intertwining humour, drama, and action in surprisingly effective and refreshing ways.

Growing up watching western movies with my dad, I admit that I appreciate the genre more than the average moviegoer. But I don't believe that anyone has to be a John Wayne movie buff to fully appreciate the comic genius of *Blazing Saddles*. Similarly, you don't have to be a fan of the genre to adore this movie. While *Gunless* doesn't quite reach the brilliance of Mel Brooks' film, it still stands as one of the best Canuck comedies in recent years. The funny thing is Gross did it as an American, but in the most Canadian way possible.

sad point when a once-great franchise takes its inevitable downward plunge. The term originates from the television series *Happy Days*, where Fonzie did in fact launch himself — with water skis and a leather jacket, no less — over a shark. Such absurdities have always been abundant in *Lost*, but they've always seemed to work due to the show's acceptance of them as being less important than the development of the characters.

Door in the ground? Crazy numbers that keep showing up? Must keep watching to find out where this is going. Smoke monster? Detonating a hydrogen bomb? I don't know how they can top this. A God versus Satan parallel and massive, invasive re-writing of the show's past continuity? Wow, nothing is actually happening in these episodes. When did this show start to suck so much?

Throughout the sixth season, the writing has become tragically apologetic. By trying to systematically

explain every mystery, the writers are destroying everything that was once good about their show: the unknown and the willingness of the mythology to take a backseat to the characters. The mysteries worked, but only as mysteries, as I'm sure anyone who knows anything about the word "midichlorian" can understand.

I still hope for a series finale that can redeem the dreadful season, but even if the ending is as poor as the rest, at least I can look forward to the end of CTV commercials billing it as "the greatest story of our time." To those who have never seen an episode of *Lost*, take heart: your obsessed friends' constant, irritating theorizing will soon end.

BRUCE CINNAMON

Flop Culture is a semi-regular feature in which Gateway pop culture pundits shake their literary fists at ridiculous events or celebrities deserving of an inky bitch-slap.

FLOP CULTURE

It's a universally known fact that there's no better way to bring death threats and hate mail down upon yourself than to criticize the television institution that is *Lost*. Defended with bleary-eyed zealotry by its legions of fans — who spend hours immersed in the minutiae of the show, micro-analyzing everything from whispers in the jungle to Richard's luscious eyelashes — even making the suggestion that *Lost* is flawed results in accusations of "just not getting the narrative." But as a fan who has watched the series since its debut, I've lived with the show for six years and have personally witnessed the decline of this once-magnificent series.

"Jumping the shark" denotes the



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FRI MAY 7

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Outdoor Miners, Service:Fair, Cream Soda. Doors 8pm, \$10 Cover.
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SAT MAY 8

Fear and Trembling at the End-of-Days Literary Saloon
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THRS MAY 13

Mystic Referee Collective Cosmic Highway 2 Tour
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FRI MAY 14

Bash on the Bayou Non-profit group World Fit for Children - www.wfcalberta.com - hosts their 2nd annual Spring fundraiser with dinner, bands, a silent auction, and dancing! (18+) Doors 7pm, Dinner 7:30pm, Live Entertainment 9:30pm. Cover: Dinner \$40, Music only \$15.

SAT MAY 15

Raised By Swans, Pink Moth, & Smokey (Field & Stream solo project) Doors 8pm, Bands 9pm.

SUN MAY 16

BOATS! with Lets Dance!, Hang Loose, & Denial Society 7-11pm, \$5 Cover, All ages.

MON MAY 17

Rhombus presents: **The Provincial Archive** with Daniel Moir, The Bird Sang Song, Raccoon Suit. All ages & licensed. Cover \$10.

THRS MAY 20

Luther Wright with guest Jack Grace (NYC) \$10 in Advance \$12 at the Door Doors @ 7pm

FRI MAY 21

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SUN MAY 23

NextFest Art Show Opening Party

FRI JUN 4

Kemo Treats CD Release (18+)

SAT JUN 5

Book Launch: God Loves Hair by Vivek Shraya
God Loves Hair is a collection of 20 short stories following a tender, intellectual, and curious child as he navigates complex realms of sexuality, gender, racial politics, religion, and belonging. With guests Ted Kerr, Karen Campos, and Derek Warwick, the book launch will be followed by a dance night with djs. Doors 7pm, No Cover.
www.godloveshair.com, www.vivekshraya.com

SUN JUN 6

Johnnie Ninety-Nine & the Hornets
CD release & fundraiser. All ages. Tickets \$10 or \$20 with a copy of the new album.

MON JUN 7

Move the Mountains Tour 2010
featuring: The Joe (Edmonton) Dragon Fli Empire (Calgary) Fallan Soldier (Vancouver). Doors 8pm, Show 9pm. Tickets \$10 advance.

SAT JUN 12

The Frolics CD Release (18+)

SAT JUN 26

Skanky Miley continues to baffle

Cyrus seems to think slutting it up has its advantages. But does it?



EVAN
MUDRYK

Occasionally, entertainment presents us with situations where we must question if anyone is thinking of the children. The night of May 4, entertainment channel *E!* premiered Miley Cyrus' new music video "Can't Be Tamed." In it, seventeen-year-old Cyrus is overtly sexualized, taking on the form of a very rare bird inexplicably called "Avis Cyrus." She's caged to begin with, and then she breaks free, which is clearly meant to show how truly untamed she is.

All right. Where are you going with this, Miley? And why are you apparently trying to seduce me? Are you trying to set an example for the kids, or is that role model thing only good when it's convenient for your merchandising?

Following the wholesomeness of "Party in the USA," Cyrus decided that the best way to counter her good-girl, homegrown image would be to go in the completely opposite direction. Because being bipolar is the quickest way into the public's hearts.

I don't get it. Watching her strut her stuff down the hallways of the American Museum of Natural History — also the home to the ever-popular *Night at the Museum* films — I half-expected to see Harrison Ford show up inexplicably, just so he could defiantly shout "that belongs in a museum!" in reference to Cyrus' lost childhood innocence. But in an age of CGI monkeys, girls are never too young to start down the Hollywood backroad of trashy softcore music-video porn, and Cyrus is the latest victim/perpetrator, depending on whose side you're on.

Comparisons are also undoubtedly abound between young Cyrus and her fellow Disney alumnus Britney Spears, who already looks to have paved the career road for the *Hannah Montana* starlet. Crappy auto-tuned songs? Check. Legions of little girls who find them endlessly captivating? Check. Native to the American south? Check. These comparisons are starting to become eerie,

so I'll stop there.

In a vain attempt to diffuse early criticisms that she's too young to be impersonating a sexy peacock, Cyrus had this to say of the video and, more specifically, her naughty attire: "The video isn't about being sexy or about who can wear less clothes. It's about explaining the song and living the lyrics." Sorry, come again?

Essentially, she's saying her video is the visual extension of the song that plays over the moving images. I would take this as a fair point, except that this has been true for every music video that has ever existed. Far be it for her to say people are just missing the point, assuming there can even be a legitimate reason to dress up a 17-year-old girl in a skanky leather outfit and parade her teenaged sexuality around for the benefit of her audience. In the case of this video, it's hard to say who that is, although at least the creepers of the world will finally have their day.

But let me step back and explore the issue more completely by asking first off: why does this video even exist? Following the wholesomeness of the surprisingly rad song "Party in the USA," Cyrus and the puppets who control her decided that the best way to counter her good-girl, homegrown image would be to go in the completely opposite direction. Because being bipolar is the quickest way into the public's hearts, or at least their minds.

Even if we assume that "Can't Be Tamed" is meant to be a parody of the purported lifestyles of the typical Hollywood Ke\$has or the Lindsay Lohans, why not come right out and say that? The irony is that "Can't Be Tamed" has the opposite effect of what the song is saying. Cyrus' actions now seem even more orchestrated than ever before — and this, coming from a girl whose last video prominently featured the American flag and the line "and the Jay-Z song was on" when the lead singer had never listened to a Jay-Z song, which isn't all that surprising, considering her age.

In fairness to Cyrus, her video was fairly tame in its presentation, at least when compared to other newly released videos. Christina Aguilera's equally confusing, bondage-fueled mess "Not Myself Tonight" — which casts Aguilera in the role of sexually ambiguous and unfettered Lady Gaga-type character — is awful in far too many ways to mention.

Where Cyrus' video and Aguilera's differ primarily is that the latter's is unoriginal, hyper-sexualized garbage, whereas the former's is only mediocre, hyper-sexualized garbage, with the exception of her pubescent age.

Both videos are painfully overwrought pop nonsense featuring stars that seem desperate to capture whatever fame is possible from the apparently enigmatic public. Their logic seems to be: there are some people you just can't please, so let's just start removing the clothing and we'll go from there.



albumreview

The Balconies

The Balconies
Independent

JOEL RACKEL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Rock and pop music history has forever been populated with family bands — the Bee Gees or Kings of Leon — and groups featuring couples, from Fleetwood Mac to the Arcade Fire. Ottawa's The Balconies are a bit of both. The band comprises guitarist Jacquie Neville alongside her brother Stephen on bass and her boyfriend Liam Jaeger behind them on drums.

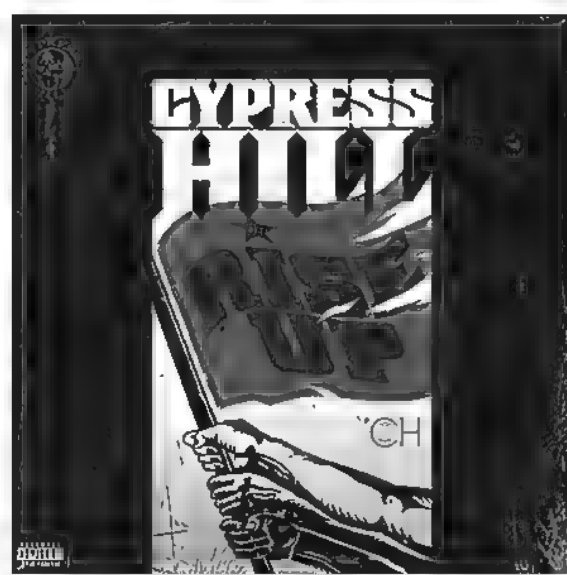
The Balconies' self-titled debut is 11 fine examples of pop rock with the three members democratically taking turns in the spotlight. The first track, "Lulu," starts with a guitar riff that sounds like Bloc Party, only with the distortion turned down and the treble turned up. This gives way to a verse that sounds just like

it's sung by the guy from the B-52s. The chorus wells up as Jacquie sings with a sense of urgency in her voice, before her male bandmates join her in harmony. The Balconies' ability to cycle through their singers makes every song a refreshing twist on the same flavour.

If anyone hogs the spotlight, it's Jacquie Neville. The vocal

hook on "Ghost Fever" is as irresistible as her guitar line on "Elephant Lamp." But brother Neville won't be outdone; his bass playing is formidable, taking the forefront on "Skinny Dipper," amongst others.

The album is pretty straightforward rock-pop without going too far outside the box, as the Balconies have nowhere near the song-writing versatility of other boy/girl groups like Yo La Tengo or Dirty Projectors. But I'm not faulting them for that. The hooks and collaborative nature of their songs are enough to keep most listeners entertained, if not anticipating the band's next release. Let's just hope the Balconies have better relationship luck than Fleetwood Mac.



albumreview

Cypress Hill

Rise Up
Priority Records

EVAN DAUM
Arts & Entertainment Staff

If you ever wondered how Cypress Hill felt about weed, *Rise Up* will clear the air. The album was released on 4/20 after all, and track titles that include "Light it Up" and "Pass the Dutch" leave no room for subtlety. However, the Southern Californian hip-hoppers love of cannabis shouldn't overshadow the quality of their latest album.

Six years after *Till Death Do Us Part* was released, Cypress Hill is finally back at it, and they've done their best to make it worth the wait. With names like Young De, Tom Morello, Everlast, Pitbull, and even Marc Anthony featured, they've brought in

some serious name power to complement their already-distinctive sound.

The title track "Rise Up" and "Armada Latina" are among the best on the album. The two are at opposite ends of the spectrum sound-wise, with "Rise Up" sporting the traditional Cypress Hill Latino-ghetto rap sound that fans of the band have come to know and love, whereas "Armada Latina" channels the sounds of folk rockers Crosby, Stills, and Nash — of all bands — to cap off the album with a terrific final track. Not often will you get a 1960s Top 40 beat, two big guest appearances, and Cypress Hill collaborating on a song to create one inimitable tune.

After a lengthy wait, there's no doubt that Cypress Hill's *Rise Up* has certainly risen to the occasion and delivered a few excellent songs, all while passing a joint. So much for lazy stoners — that is, unless it takes another six years for the band's next effort.

The Gateway Concert Blog

thegatewayonline.ca/blogs/concert



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create
the fame.**

**The fame
created me.**

—Lady Gaga

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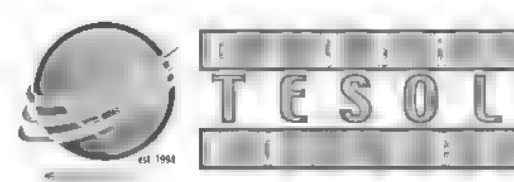
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YOUR ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

New players tested at Golden Bears spring camp



DAN MCKECHNIE

BIG KICK-OFF A Golden Bears punter practises kicking this weekend at Foote Field as part of spring camp festivities

EVAN DAUM
Sports Staff

It's only May, but the unofficial start to the football season kicked off last week, as the Golden Bears hosted their annual spring camp.

The four-day camp gave the Bears coaching staff the opportunity to get a first glance at the players looking to earn a spot on the Green and Gold. With 51 players returning from last year's team that went 4-4 and earned their first playoff berth since 2005, they will have a solid core this season.

Those starters will be complimented by a crew of newcomers to the gridiron Bears, including 10 new recruits that were introduced at last week's camp. Six of those 10 will suit up for the Green and Gold coming straight out of high school. Ross Sheppard Linebacker Tommy Tsoumpas comes to the Bears with some name recognition thanks to his older brother Dimitri who plays for the Miami Dolphins.

While Tsoumpas may have football in his blood, the four recruits that come to the Bears via the Edmonton Wildcats junior program will be expected to make the most immediate impact, including Steven Giang on the defensive line – an area that was described by head coach Jerry Friesen as a weakness for the Bears a season ago.

"One thing that happened last year, was that in our interior defensive line, we had challenges," said Friesen. "First thing was we didn't have much depth, and secondly we didn't have much size – Steve brings that in."

"With his experience he can contribute and that's what we expect out of him."

Along with Giang, former Wildcat Dave Berg will be expected to make his mark for the Bears. Berg led the Prairie Football Conference last season in special team return yards, and most likely will see playing time immediately as a special teamer.

"As you know, in Canadian football special teams are huge," said Friesen. "With Dave coming in, the biggest thing is he's a threat on the field, and we're going to end up letting him handle the ball, 12 times a game – he's just the threat we're looking for."

Berg played defensive back with the Wildcats, but realizes that his special team prowess will be the biggest element he will bring to the Bears.

"I have to work into the DBs, obviously, since there's quite a few [returning players] ahead of me," Berg explained. "In the return game, hopefully I'll be able to step in right away and make a difference immediately, and contribute to the team."

Joining Giang and Berg, two other former Wildcats made their Golden Bear debuts at spring camp; Mike Wojcicki and Delano Tennent got their feet wet at the camp.

The four Wildcats bring with them experience at the national level, making it all the way to the finals a season ago.

"What we want to end up doing is making sure that they bring that competitive nature to our football program, and help us get to the national final," Friesen said.

Four Bears travelling to CIS Bowl

Veteran Bears attending the East-West Bowl hope to show their potential to CFL recruiters while going shoulder to shoulder with other elite players

MATT HIRJI
Sports Editor

While the Gridiron Bears 4-4 record last season failed to meet the team's expectations, the improvement and commitment of four veteran Bears did not go unnoticed by both CIS coaches and CFL recruiters.

The four, who have been recognized for their veteran resolve and long-term contributions to the University of Alberta football program, will compete in the CIS East-West Bowl this weekend.

The East-West Bowls, which will take place in London, Ont., will primarily showcase CIS veterans eligible for the CFL Draft.

The game matches the best players in the eastern conference of the CIS against the elite of the West and is an opportunity for Bears veterans to show their potential and impress scouts in their attempt to gain a spot on professional rosters.

Golden Bears head coach Jerry Friesen is proud of his players who have been given the opportunity to participate and display their skills at the prestigious event.

"Those guys are all worthy [of playing in the game] and they are really excited about going out and showing their skills," Friesen said, adding, "the [players representing the Bears in the Game] are four very quality players: Hugh O'Neill is an All-Canadian, both offensive linemen; Thomas Fry

and Nicholas Ternovatsky are at their prime; and Craig Gerbrandt was the Canada West best defensive player [last year]."

In addition, as Friesen asserts, the East-West Bowl is an opportunity for the gridiron Bears to show their potential to play in the professional ranks.

"All the CFL teams are out there [recruiting]. They are all taking a look, because the [players participating] are all draftable next year. It's a great opportunity for the players."

"It's a great opportunity. There are a whole bunch of good football players coming together and you get to meet a whole bunch of new coaches."

HUGH O'NEILL
GOLDEN BEARS KICKER

Defensive lineman Craig Gerbrandt had a breakout year for the Bears in 2009 and being named to the CIS East-West Bowl is a testament to his commitment and defensive tenacity. During last year's campaign, Gerbrandt accumulated 13 tackles and forced two fumbles while working with other defensive specialists to make the Green and Gold a formidable defensive opponent.

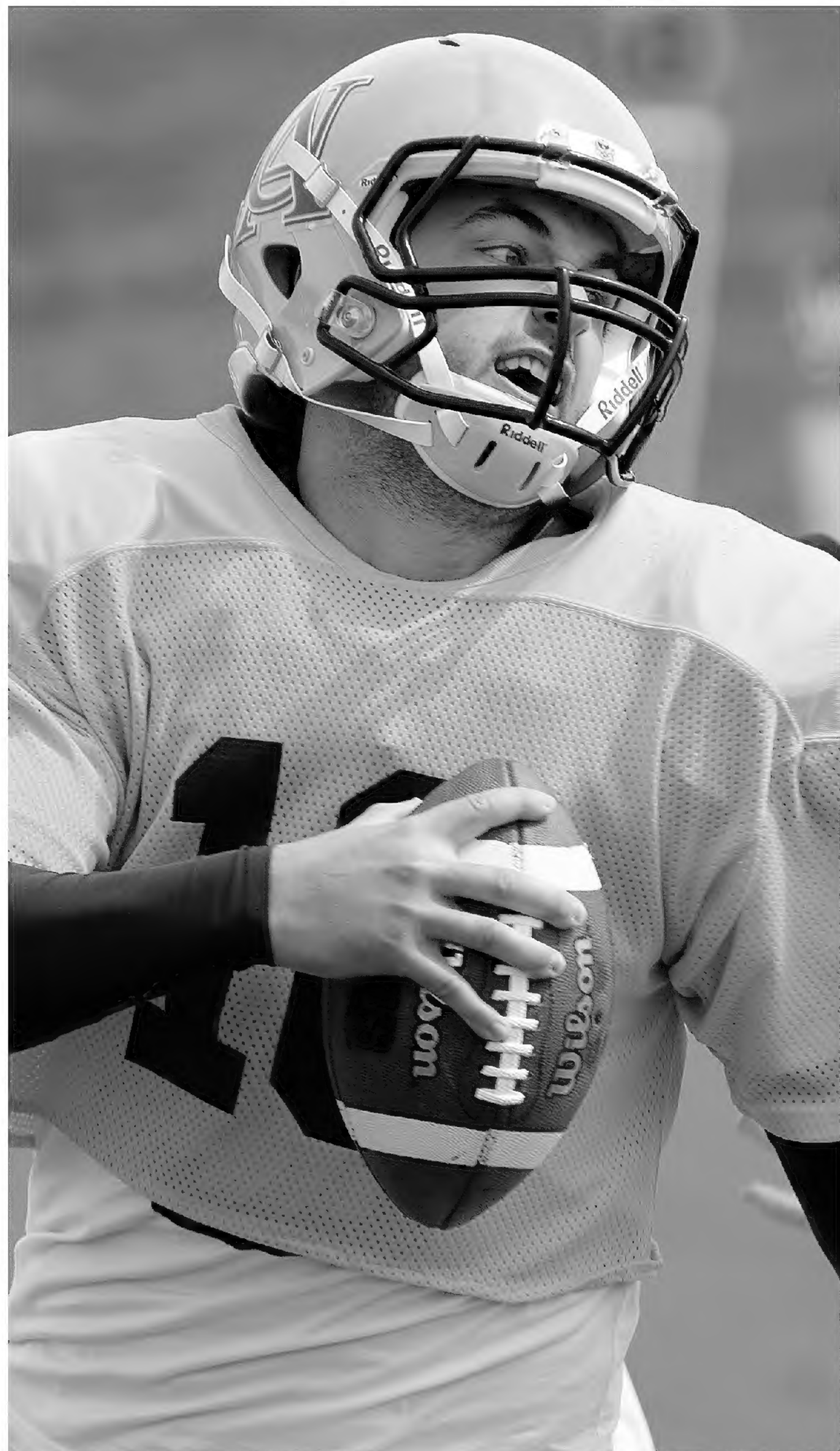
Gerbrandt's determined play has gained him a positive reputation amongst the Canadian university ranks and he is looking forward to showing recruiters his potential to play at the CFL level.

"It's definitely going to allow me to go out there and show what I can do, and what kind of players we bring out from the U of A in regards to the rest of the CIS. I want to go out there and show what I've got. I want to show that I can try to compete and be able to go up to that level and possibly play at the CFL level," said Gerbrandt.

Bears kicker, Hugh O'Neill, is another player participating in the East-West Bowl. Along with other Bears contingent, O'Neill is excited to participate in the illustrious bowl game.

"It's a great opportunity. There are a whole bunch of good football players coming together and you get to meet a whole bunch of new coaches. It's going to be an opportunity to get some new experiences and meet some new people. I am really looking forward to it," O'Neill said, echoing the sentiments of his teammates traveling to the bowl game.

While the East-West Bowl has implications for players looking to play professionally in their post-university careers, the Bears head coach applauds the event for its encouragement of Canadian football camaraderie.

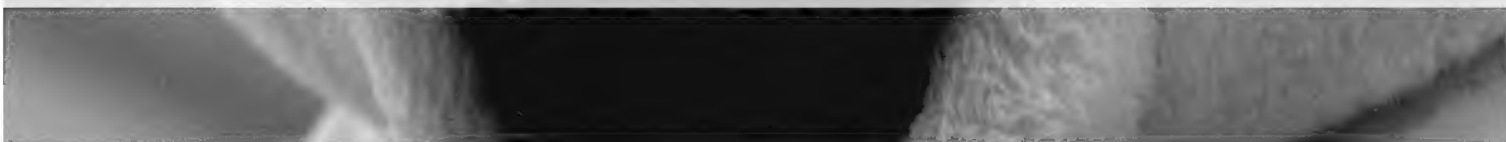


DAN MCKECHNIE



Patches loves basketball. She also loves Gateway Sports. Next volunteer meeting May 6 at 5 p.m. in 3-04 SUB.

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Time for Selig to fast-track slow play fix

Slow pace of MLB games is ostracizing baseball fans who love the old game



EVAN DAUM

Sports Commentary

The time has come to address the pace of play, which is a serious issue for Major League Baseball. While there are rules already in place to speed up the game, the league has shown the propensity to simply turn the other cheek on the issue. Bud Selig, the grand poobah of MLB, has become the poster boy of not tackling tough issues during his tenure as the league's commissioner.

Whether it be the steroid problem which Selig managed to drag his feet on for years, or this latest hiccup for the league with the pace of games reaching a comical level in this young MLB season, Selig is even slower to react than the game that he is commissioner for.

Veteran umpire Joe West made headlines earlier this season when he called out both the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox — two of the slowest teams in baseball over the last several years — for playing the game at a speed he called "pathetic and embarrassing."

In that three-gameset between the Yanks and Sox, the average game time was three-and-a-half hours, with the longest being Game 2's nine-inning marathon that lasted a ridiculous three hours and forty-eight minutes

West's thoughts give some important insight into baseball's biggest problem, especially north of the border, where the most popular sport, hockey, abides by a 60-minute time frame — how slow Major League Baseball be perceived to be.

There's no question the game can be best described as methodical at times, and to some that's boring. There's a difference, however, between the speed of the game itself and the pace of play.

The answer is black and white for Selig and MLB — use the rules already outlined and penalize offenders

The problem isn't the speed of the game itself; it's the nonsense that goes on between the actual game action. I'm tired of seeing batters step out of the box every pitch to adjust their batting gloves and pitchers standing on the mound for 30 seconds between pitches for no apparent reason.

Of the rules already in place to keep the game moving, rule 8.04 states that "When the bases are unoccupied, the pitcher shall deliver the ball to the batter within 12 seconds."

While that rule makes perfect sense, it rarely goes enforced. The average time between pitches a season ago was well over 20 seconds, meaning a lot of balls should have been handed out when pitchers stalled on the

mound with the bases empty, but alas that didn't happen and slingers were permitted to bend the rules without being reprimanded.

Another important rule dealing with the pace is rule 6.02, which is a long jumble of complexities that runs over 800 words long, but can be summed up as: batters, get in the box and get ready.

That brings us to the solution for Major League Baseball — call the rules the way they were intended to be applied, and if there are holes, fix them.

It's happened in the past — leagues for whatever reason drift away from the initial intent of certain rules only to gravitate back to them when they realize that by being lax, the situations the rules were created to prevent comes to the surface.

It happened in the NHL when obstruction and stick work reigned supreme prior to the lockout, before the league started once again calling the rules to the letter of the law.

The answer is in black and white for Selig and MLB — use the rules already outlined and penalize offenders.

The Yankees, Red Sox, and other snail-paced slingers may complain if they're being handed out penalties on the field of play, but it's time Selig stood up, stopped looking like the ultimate man of inaction, and took care of an issue that even he's capable of dealing with. Without quick action, the MLB will lose the support of its fans who love the game for what it used to be.

A distracted Tiger gives opening to Lefty

Woods' personal distractions will allow Mickelson to claim number-one spot



NATHAN LIEWICKI

Sports Commentary

On April 8 — after a 144-day layoff — Tiger Woods returned to competitive golf at The Masters Tournament as the top ranked player in the game. However, as Woods left the hallowed grounds of Augusta National, whispers began to swirl that Phil Mickelson might soon usurp the number one world ranking.

Amid the azaleas and Georgia pines that tower over Augusta National Golf Club, Mickelson found his groove thanks to back-to-back eagles on the 13th and 14th holes of Saturday's third round, holding off Woods and a host of other elite players to capture his third green jacket.

With Woods beginning the 2010 PGA Tour season outside the ropes, it was hypothesized that Mickelson would take advantage of Tiger's absence by dominating the West Coast Swing. Woods' sabbatical also gave Lefty a golden opportunity to inch closer to being ranked first.

Despite these rumblings, Mickelson failed to take advantage of the early season opportunities and recorded only one top-10 finish prior to his masterful triumph at the season's first major championship. Only then did those rumblings return.

Lefty, like Tiger, had been dealing with his own personal difficulties. Nearly a year ago, Mickelson's wife Amy was diagnosed with breast cancer,

as was his mother Mary Mickelson. Although the past 13 months have been tough for Phil and his family, Masters week was extremely special because for the first time since the 2009 Players Championship, the entire Mickelson family was together at a PGA Tour event. It must have recharged him emotionally knowing that Amy and the kids were waiting at their rental home after each day of preparation.

While Tiger continues to struggle to find his game, Mickelson's consistent play and ability to reconcile his off course distractions this season will be rewarded and he will be able to place World's Best on his resume.

Tiger's family, however, was away in Sweden while he competed at the Masters. How much that weighed on his performance at Augusta National remains uncertain, but after he finished tied for fourth at The Masters, the majority of the golf community viewed Tiger's return to the Tour as a success.

Nonetheless, watching him plod his way around Augusta National, it was evident that elements of his game were rusty. While it is difficult to determine if the Tiger's off-course debacle had affected his game — Tiger is known for his invariable

demeanor on the course — it is clear that he just didn't play to the level that was expected, while Mickelson's off-course difficulties have served as a motivating factor to become a better golfer and family man.

At Augusta National it was obvious that Tiger was fighting both his swing and his inner demons. This was particularly evident in his next start at the Quail Hollow Championship. Hitting only six fairways in two days, Woods missed his first cut in a non-major tournament since October 2005. His two-day total of 153 was the highest 36-hole total he has ever scored as a professional. It is apparent that Tiger is struggling with his confidence and is having a tough time coming to terms with his personal struggles.

Lefty has crept close enough to Tiger's hold on the top ranking that a win this weekend at the Players Championship, combined with Tiger Woods finishing outside of the top five in the tournament, Mickelson would claim the title of best player on the planet for the first time in his career.

Even if it doesn't happen this weekend at the Players, it is inevitable that Woods will be supplanted by Mickelson as the world's number one sometime this season.

The dynamics of the PGA Tour have shifted in part because of how the sport's two greatest players have been able to deal with off-course issues. While Tiger continues to struggle to find his game, Mickelson's consistent play and ability to reconcile his off-course distractions this season will be rewarded and he will be able to place World's Best on his resume.

Which team will hoist Lord Stanley’s Cup this year?

As the NHL’s top players take to the ice to challenge for the Prince of Wales Trophy, the Gateway predicts who will come out on top



SPORTS
STAFF

Group
Commentary

With the NHL Playoffs already into the second round, the action is getting more electrifying with every drop of the puck. Here are the predictions of our expert staff on who will hoist Lord Stanley’s 2010 Cup.



Nick Frost

Going into the Stanley Cup Playoffs, predicting who would finish as Eastern

Conference Champions seemed fairly cut and dry: the Pittsburgh Penguins and Washington Capitals appeared to be odds-on favourites to become the new keepers of the Prince of Wales Trophy. By now, we all know that the Caps fell hard to Jaroslav Halak in the quarter-finals, and the Penguins are only up 2-1 on the Montreal Canadiens.

In the other Eastern semifinal, the Boston Bruins are giving one of their most meaningful postseason efforts in the past decade and appear poised to take a serious run at Lord Stanley’s Mug. When they get to the Stanley Cup Finals — as I’m predicting they will — they will only have one man to thank: Tuukka Rask.

Whether or not that name registers with most hockey fans, the 23-year-old rookie

netminder has been putting up tremendous efforts during these playoffs, albeit under the radar. Rask has already outduelled Buffalo goaltender Ryan Miller, who spent the entire 2009/10 season receiving critical acclaim for his performances with the Sabres and at the Olympics with Team U.S.A. Now, the young Finn has helped Boston open up a 2-0 series lead on the Philadelphia Flyers, and has yet to show any signs of slowing down.

In fact, thriving outside of the spotlight works quite well for Rask. He spent the first half of Boston’s season backing up Tim Thomas before gradually fading in as the Bruins’ number-one goaltender, earning 22 wins and five shutouts in 45 games this year. And because his playing time was limited during the first half of the season, he was able to come in and lead the Bruins without having the words “Calder Trophy” whispered in his ear as a distraction.

Don’t get me wrong, though: I don’t think the Bruins will actually win the Cup — that honour will go to whoever wins the West. However, I believe we will see at least two games of the Stanley Cup Finals played in Beantown.



Nathan
Liewicki

With all of the upsets that marked the first round of this year’s NHL playoffs, the number-one seed in the West, the San Jose Sharks, withstood a sturdy challenge from the Colorado Avalanche and advanced to round two.

During the past four playoff runs,

the Sharks have been ousted in the conference quarterfinal or semifinal series, and thus have been labeled as under-achievers in the playoffs. This year, however, is going to be different.

The argument is going to be made that the Sharks don’t have a secondary scoring punch or a goalie who can put together a quartet of solid playoff series. In previous years this was true, but those who doubt that this Sharks team can put it all together will be scratching their heads after they hoist the Stanley Cup in June.

They’re up in their series against the two-time defending Western Conference champion Detroit Red Wings and should knock them out with grit and determination.

If the Sharks continue to receive solid goaltending from Nabokov, if Joe Pavelski’s amazing playoff performance continues, and if the trio of Marleau, Thornton, and Heatley begin to score like they did during the regular season, San Jose should be a lock to capture the franchise’s first Stanley Cup.



Evan Daum

Looking into my Stanley Cup crystal ball, I see a pathetic moustache and a mule

in the future, as for the first time the same two teams will meet three years in a row for Lord Stanley’s Cup.

The Penguins, led by the golden goal scorer Sidney Crosby, are the cream of the remaining crop in the

Eastern Conference. The same young core that guided Pittsburgh to the last two finals is still intact, and once again they’re poised to win it all, making the Pens my pick in the East, downing the Canadiens and then the Bruins in the conference final.

While the Pens are the highest seed remaining in the East, and are my pick to win the conference, the same can’t be said for the West’s top remaining team, the San Jose Sharks.

Contrast the Sharks perennial failures with their second round opponents the Detroit Red Wings, who exude excellence. Needless to say, I’m picking Detroit. Not only am I taking the Wings to win that series, but also the conference. A third consecutive Pittsburgh-Detroit final is on the horizon, as the Wings will beat the Canucks in the conference finals.

In the granddaddy of all hockey series, and for a second consecutive year the Steel City will welcome Stanley home, as Crosby caps off a once-in-a-lifetime season with another ring to go along with his Olympic gold medal.

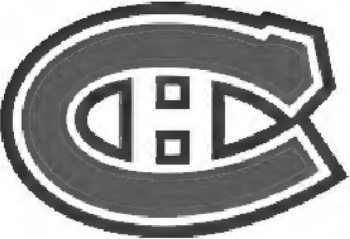


Simon Yackulic

After the passion we saw during the 2010 Winter Olympics, Canadians - and

inhabitants of the northern hemisphere in general - fell in love with Van City. Being an avid sports fan, I personally caught their exciting games a number of times myself — at least three, but not more than five matches. As we watched

the Canucks challenge and eventually defeat the LA Kings, the tension and energy on the rink during that heated series led to some of the most exciting hockey — and hockey fights — so far this season. And because of this enduring courage that the team has already presented, I’m confident that they will maintain this forward momentum in a successful drive for the Cup, making true the dreams of Canucks fans and well-educated hockey pool gamblers everywhere.



Matt Hirji

While many are predicting that Canada’s golden

boy, Sidney Crosby, will lead the Pittsburgh Penguins to their second consecutive Stanley Cup, the Montreal Canadiens will defy the odds to capture the 25th championship in team history.

Coming off a thrilling series with the Washington Capitals, where the Habs knocked off the Eastern Conference’s number-one-ranked team in seven games, the Flying Frenchmen seem to have an invigorated sense of purpose in their quest to claim the Prince of Wales Trophy.

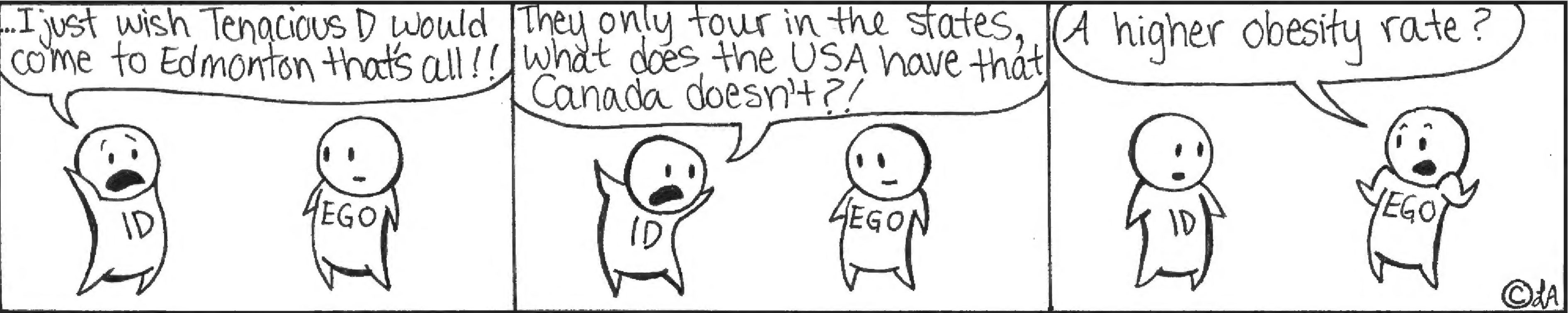
The statistics are on their side; in the 99 years that the Habs have taken to the ice, they have laid claim to Lord Stanley’s Cup 24 times. With the cool demeanor of head coach Jacques Martin, and the hot shooting of Mike Cammalleri, Le Bleu-Blanc-Rouge will mount a Cinderella campaign to will hoist Stanley’s 2010 trophy - much to the dismay of those militant Crosby fans across Canada.

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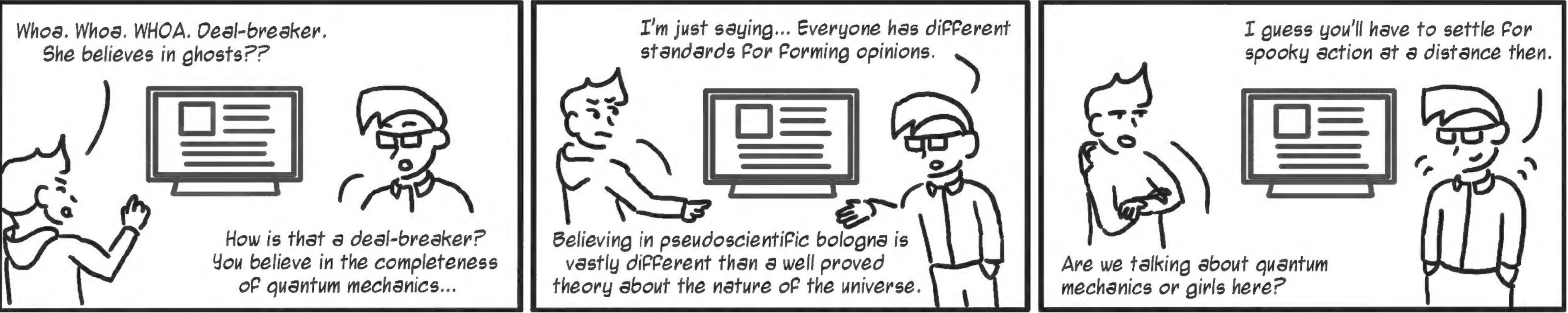
ID & EGO by Lauren Alston



PANEL SHOW by Ross Vincent



SEXY GEEK by Ross Lockwood



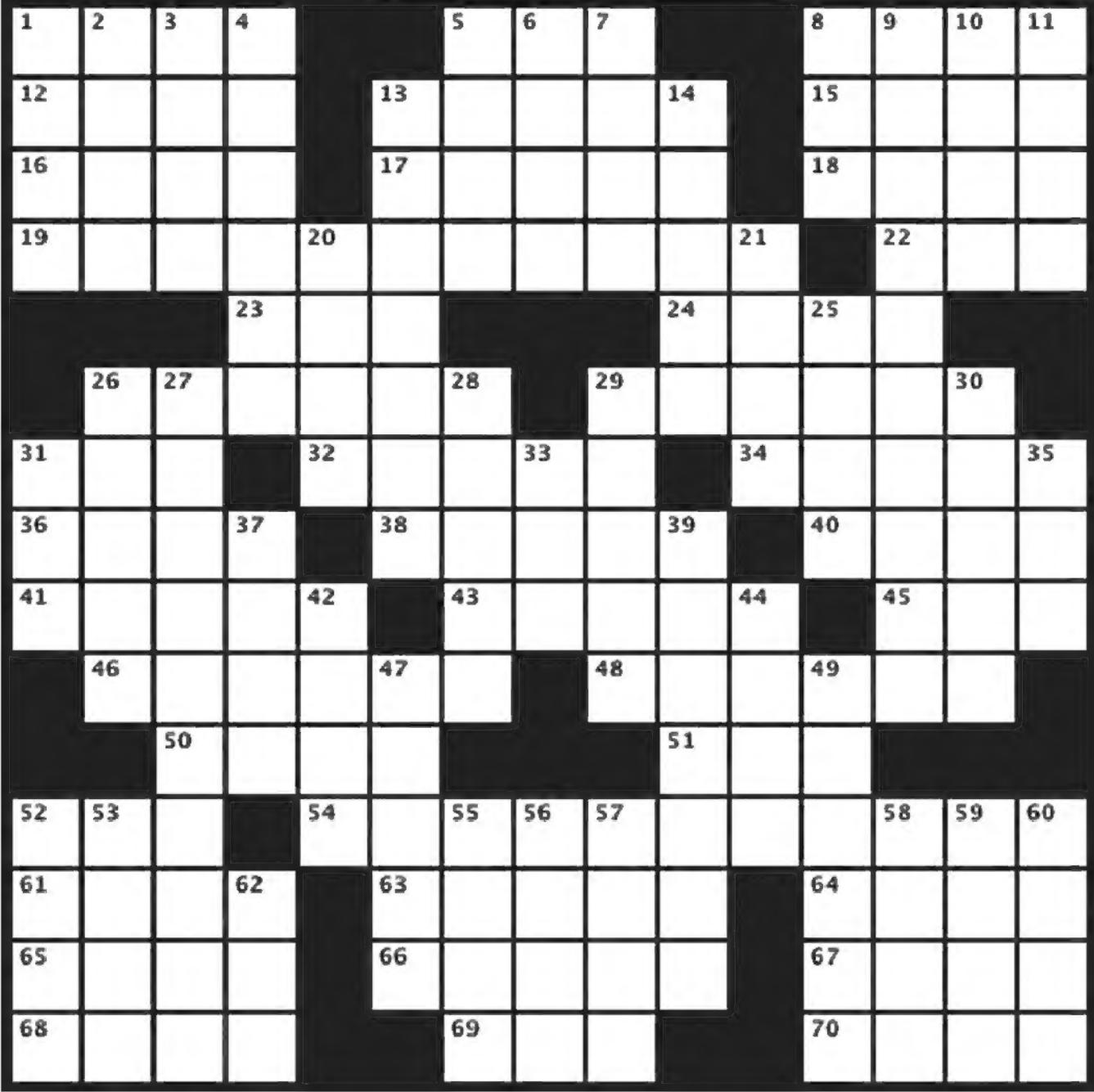
HESITATING BEAUTY Tulips bend under the weight of this week's freak snow.

Puzzle provided by
BestCrosswords.com
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Across

- 1. Darn
- 5. Back talk
- 8. Water, abroad
- 12. Between ports
- 13. Swellings
- 15. Respiratory organ
- 16. Drops from the sky
- 17. New York city
- 18. "Venerable" English monk
- 19. Ancient language of Gaul
- 22. Aurora's counterpart
- 23. Cornerstone abbr.
- 24. Frond plant
- 26. Actress Mason
- 29. Anew
- 31. Darlin'
- 32. DuBois' "talented" group
- 34. Valleys
- 36. Baltic feeder
- 38. Ascends
- 40. Actress Turner
- 41. Humped ruminant
- 43. Chairs
- 45. Cpl., for one
- 46. Small lobe
- 48. Deceive
- 50. Former French colony of north-western Africa
- 51. Decoration at the top of a chair leg
- 52. Land in *la mer*
- 54. Imperturbable
- 61. Goes down
- 63. New Hampshire city
- 64. Person, place, or thing
- 65. Bottom of the barrel
- 66. Four-door
- 67. Cross inscription
- 68. Goes astray
- 69. Convened
- 70. Elderly, matured

crossword



Down

- 1. Sportscaster Albert
- 2. Biblical birthright seller
- 3. Singer Sedaka
- 4. Peril
- 5. Lounge
- 6. Brain wave
- 7. Heating fuel
- 8. Long-sleeved linen vestment
- 9. State in NE Australia
- 10. Go back, in a way
- 11. A long time
- 13. Arctic gale
- 14. Smell
- 20. Kind of prof.
- 21. Dweeb
- 25. Actual
- 26. Related to form
- 27. Wind speed measuring instrument
- 28. Licorice-like flavoring
- 29. In front
- 30. Therefore
- 31. Ad
- 33. Half a fly
- 35. Paulo, Brazil
- 37. First name in country
- 39. Raise a grade?
- 42. Corker
- 44. Hit with an open hand
- 47. Rings of a chain
- 49. The Muse of astronomy
- 52. Land in water
- 53. Lecherous look
- 55. Dues
- 56. Moon of Jupiter
- 57. Med school subj.
- 58. Dull resonant sound
- 59. Decoy
- 60. Children's author Blyton
- 62. Draft organization